MONDAY
September 4, 2023

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
18 Pages ₹ 6.00

THE HINDU

www.thehindu.com

INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

FOLLOW US
facebook.com/thehindu
twitter.com/the_hindu
instagram.com/the_hindu

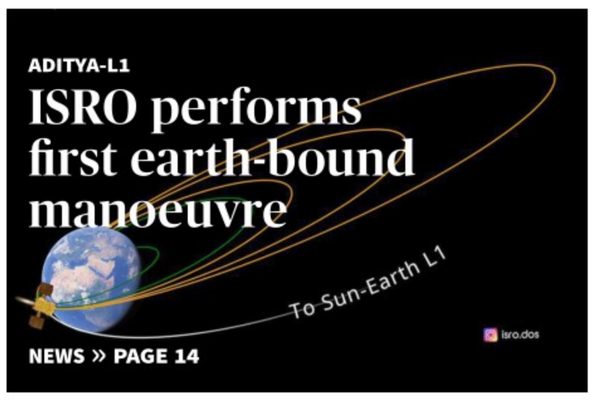
Vol.54 • No.210

Printed at » Chennai » Coimbatore » Bengaluru » Hyderabad » Madurai » Noida » Visakhapatnam » Thiruvananthapuram » Kochi » Vijayawada » Mangaluru » Tiruchirapalli » Kolkata » Hubballi » Mohali » Malappuram » Mumbai » Tirupati » Lucknow » Cuttack » Patna

ASSEMBLY BYELECTIONS

Campaigning ends in seven constituencies

NEWS » PAGE 12



NEWS » PAGE 14

ADANI POWER PROJECT

Sri Lanka seeks a G2G deal, say media

WORLD » PAGE 15

GYANVAPI CASE

Court's order and ASI survey are flawed

Order raises questions over legality, propriety

EDITORIAL » PAGE 10

A LEGEND OF THE GAME

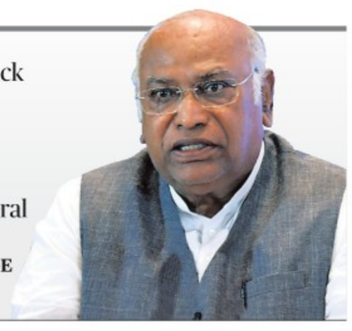
Streak succumbs to colon cancer

SPORT » PAGE 17

Kharge calls meeting of floor leaders of INDIA ahead of Parliament Special Session

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

> This gimmick of forming a committee on 'one nation, one election' is a subterfuge for dismantling the federal structure of India
> **MALLIKARJUN KHARGE**
> Congress president



Ahead of the Special Session of Parliament between September 18 and 22, floor leaders of Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) parties will meet at the official residence of the Congress president and Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, Mallikarjun Kharge, here on Tuesday.

Sources said on Sunday that Mr. Kharge had convened the meeting, and the Opposition parties would decide their strategy for the session.

Though the Union government has not revealed the agenda for the session, Opposition parties think that its proposal for simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha, Assemblies and local bodies would be on the table.

Opposition leaders continued to lash out at the idea of simultaneous elections. Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi said INDIA, that is Bharat, is a Union of States. "The idea of 'one nation, one election' is an attack on the Indian Union and all its States," Mr. Gandhi said on X (formerly Twitter).

In a detailed statement, Mr. Kharge said the Narendra Modi government wanted democratic India to slowly turn into a dictatorship.

"This gimmick of forming a committee on 'one nation, one election' is a subterfuge for dismantling the federal structure of India," Mr. Kharge said.

He said at least five amendments would have to be made to the Constitution, apart from massive changes to the Representation of the People Act, 1951. "The Constitutional Amendments shall be required to truncate the terms of the elected Lok Sabha and the Legislative Assemblies, as also at the level of local bodies, so that they can be synchronised," he said.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12

Fiscally imprudent policies, populism affect the poor: PM

In an interview ahead of G-20 Summit, Modi says he has warned the States against such plans; he dismisses the reactions against holding meetings in Kashmir, Arunachal in the run-up to summit

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Making a point: Prime Minister Narendra Modi during an interview in New Delhi on Wednesday. PTI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has cautioned against irresponsible financial policies and populism, saying that these measures may give political results in the short term, but will extract "a great social and economic price in the long term" with the most consequences for the "poorest and most vulnerable".

In an interview to the news agency Press Trust of India, released on Sunday, Mr. Modi said that India had been sensitive to neighbours such as Sri Lanka which were going through such a crisis, and mentioned the domestic situation.

"I have urged our State governments to be conscious about financial discipline as well. Whether it is at the national conference of Chief Secretaries or any such platform, I have said that financially irresponsible policies and populism may give political results in the short term but will extract a great social and economic price in the long term."

In a strong statement on reaction from countries such as Pakistan and China to meetings held in Kashmir and Arunachal Pradesh in the run-up to the G-20 Summit in New Delhi, Mr. Modi said: "Such a question would be valid if we had refrained from conducting meetings in those venues. Ours is such a vast, beautiful and diverse nation. When G-20 meetings are happening, isn't it natural that meetings will be held in every part of our country?"

He said that when it came to energy security the world was veering towards India's position that there was no 'one-size-fits-all' solution. "Our principle is simple – diversity is our best bet, whether in society or in terms of our energy mix... Given the different pathways countries are on, our pathways for energy transition will be different. Despite having 17% of the world's population, India's historic share in cumulative emissions has been less than 5%. Yet, we have left no stone unturned in meeting our climate goals," he said.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12
INTERVIEW ON
» PAGE 13

NEARBY

Fatal accidents on expressway come down

BENGALURU
The number of fatal accidents on the Bengaluru-Mysuru Expressway, which has received a lot of flak over how fatal it has turned out to be, has reduced. » Page 2

Teacher asks students to 'go to Pak.'; transferred

SHIVAMOGGA
A teacher at a Urdu Government Higher Primary School in Shivamogga has been transferred following allegations that she asked students to "go to Pakistan", while scolding them for making noise in classroom. » Page 4

EDUCATIONPLUS » PAGE 5

Golden hour

People enjoying the sunset at Attappallam in Walayar on the Kerala-Tamil Nadu border on Saturday. After witnessing the 'driest August' in over a century, Kerala can heave a sigh of relief as it is likely to receive a decent spell of rain in September. The India Meteorological Department sounded a yellow alert for three districts — Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, and Alappuzha on Sunday. MUSTAFAH K.K.

State government to finalise list of drought-affected taluks today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Krishna Byre Gowda

The State government will draw up the first list of drought-hit taluks on Monday after the Cabinet sub-committee on drought-related issues meets. Based on the rainfall report, the government is planning to declare drought-hit areas in three lists.

"We will declare the taluks as drought-hit as per the strict guidelines of the Centre. As of August 31, 75 taluks are ready to be declared as drought-affected. As of August 18, the government has drawn up a temporary list of 113 affected taluks as per the Centre's guidelines," Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda told reporters in Kolar on Sunday.

He said that the government was also getting the ground truthing report on crop losses. The Minister said that "over the next 10 days, the second list of taluks will be identified and declared as drought-affected after receiving the crop loss survey report".

He said that as per the Centre's guidelines, areas should have reported a deficit rainfall of 60% or more for three weeks to be declared as drought-hit, and that the list prepared based on the guidelines.

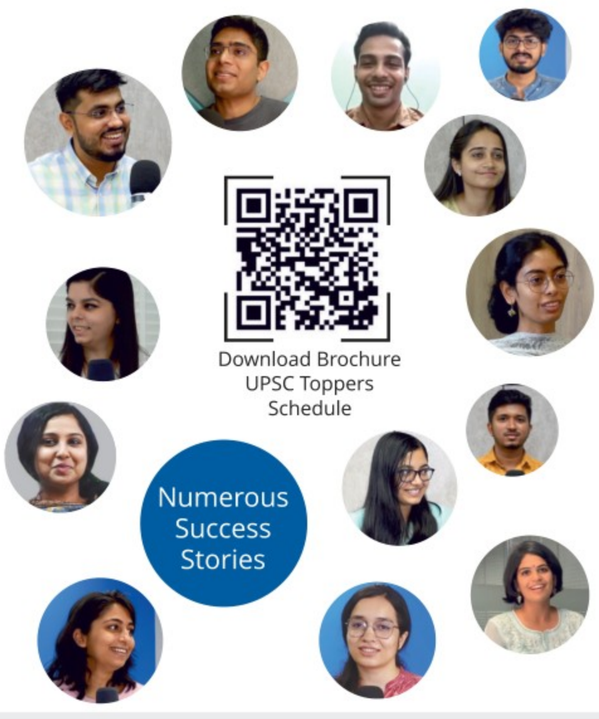
"The sub-committee will decide on taluks that meet the criteria. If necessary, the announcement will be made after bringing it to the notice of the Cabinet," he said.

"The government has decided to have the third list of drought-hit areas also. Those that will be left out in the first list will be considered in the second. Those that miss out in the second list will be considered in the third list," Mr. Gowda said.

"Once drought was declared, he said that the State government will seek funds from the Centre, and release money to take up emergency water supply works as well as taking borewells on rent.

RAU'S IAS @70 years of commitment, achievement & trust
Nothing less than the BEST

How to secure a TOP RANK in your next UPSC Civil Services Exam?
Focus on IMPROVING the QUALITY of your
KNOWLEDGE
EXAM SKILLS



GS (PRELIMS & MAINS) INTEGRATED
QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

KNOWLEDGE
350 hours of Current Affairs, Prelims & Mains Revision classes

SKILLS
88 Pre & Mains Tests with 150 hours of comprehensive test discussion classes.

PERSONAL MENTORSHIP
Unlimited 1:1 support

HYBRID CLASSES
Attend Live-Online from home or from Rau's IAS Campus in ORN, Delhi.

ETHICS & ESSAY
Due weightage will be given to themes which can bring substantial improvement in score.

VIDEO BACKUP
All QIP classes will be available as videos which can be watched unlimited times till Mains.

FLEXIBILITY
Tests will be released according to a schedule but can be attempted with 100% flexibility.

Classes starting from 2 September
First 5 classes open for all on www.elearn.rauias.com

ADMISSION OPEN | APPLY NOW

Old Rajinder Nagar (ORN), Delhi 011 - 4078 6050
Barakhamba Rd., Delhi 011 - 4078 6050
Koramangala, Bengaluru 080 – 4142 6050
rauias.com

A BG-BGE

The wizard of Spain: Cuadrat working his magic for East Bengal

A product of Barcelona, he comes from the same school of football as Iniesta, Xavi and Messi; he has also worked with Rijkaard in his initial days as a coach

Neeladri Bhattacharjee

The night is the darkest before dawn and the East Bengal fans have learnt it the hard way. The Indian Super League club finished at the bottom of the league in the 2021-22 season and been in the bottom three in every season since 2020.

Mohun Bagan, its archrival, on the other hand, has won the Indian Super League title and every Kolkata derby since 2019 until the last season. Manchester United vibes? Pretty much.

But the 2023-24 season has seen a sea change as the club has brought in a fresh batch of players and an ISL-winning coach in Carles Cuadrat.

Football and footballers

At first glance, Cuadrat appears to be just a tourist in the City of Joy – a black shirt, a tall frame, broken English and a love for 'India and its culture'. But when he speaks, it's mostly about football and footballers.

"I really know a lot of players and coaches. I know the story behind it and I'm ready to see the evolution of all of that," he had said before his return to India. Being at the helm at East Bengal now, Cuadrat seems to be doing just that, adding brick by brick to take the club back to its glory days.

The Red and Gold Brigade defeated Mohun Bagan Super Giant in the first Kolkata derby under his charge, qualified for the Durand Cup knockouts as the group-topper and reached the Durand Cup final after 19 years.

The banners in the stands of the Kanteerava Stadium once used to read: "Lead us, Carles." The prodigal son of Spain has now returned to do just that with a new outfit.

Cuadrat, a *La Masia* product, comes from the same school of football as Andres Iniesta, Xavi Hernandez and Lionel Messi. He has also worked with the manager who gave Messi his senior debut, Frank Rijkaard, in his initial days of coaching.

But he peaked in tandem with fellow Spaniard Albert Roca, the two winning the Federation Cup and leading the side to the ISL and AFC Cup final – the first club to do so. Though Roca left, Cuadrat, now as head coach, took the Blues to greater heights, winning their maiden ISL title – their only one so far.

India's centre-back Rahul Bheke, who was one of Cuadrat's custodians at the back for Bengaluru FC, spoke about his impact off the field.

"He (Cuadrat) is a tactically sound coach. Whenever a team plays against him, he works a lot on the tactical side of it and on set-pieces. He is a specialist in set-pieces. He knows when, where and how set-pieces should be planned and where goals can be scored through them," he said.

"He makes a team's defence very strong. When I played under him, we kept around 11 clean sheets and also maintained an unbeaten run. He insists a lot on not conceding a goal and in maintaining possession."

At East Bengal, too, the Spaniard has stuck to his formula – creating a team that is menacing in set-pieces. In the eight goals scored by East Bengal (another one was ruled off-side), six of them have come through set-pieces.

Cuadrat has overseen the growth of several young Indian players while his transfer strategy has seen Bengaluru become a title-winning side.

In his five-year stay at Bengaluru, initially as an assistant coach and then as head coach, Cuadrat welcomed players such as Xisco Hernandez, Juanan and Miku – all of whom proved to be instrumental in the team becoming the ISL champion, while the last two also won the Super Cup.

> Scouting is very important. A club with a long history needs to be very good at scouting and to be really good at data. I think that it's the future of football

Some of the young players he mentored as head coach – Suresh Singh, Ashique Kuruniyan and Prabhsukhan Gill – have become very successful players for India.

"Scouting is very important. A club with a long history needs to be very good at scouting and to be really good at data. I think that it's the future of football," Cuadrat had said during an interview.

"All the teams need to be working for the future in that way and try to get players in at the right moment. It's always about who is the quickest to sign the new talent."

East Bengal, too, has utilised his keen eye to pick players judiciously. The team has made 15 new signings (loan and permanent transfers) and the nucleus of the side has been built around them.

Jordan Elsey and Javier Siverio have been the usual suspects in and around the box for set-pieces while Saul Crespo has been the midfield architect with his long and through balls. It was his through ball that was finished expertly by Nandhakumar Sekar as East Bengal won the bragging rights in the Kolkata derby in the group stage.

Cuadrat has reunited with Gill as the goalkeeper while Nandha, another new signing, and Naorem Mahesh Singh have been handed the task of attacking through the flanks.

The signing of veterans as full-backs has worked like a charm with Harmanjot Khabra and Mandar Rao Dessai combining well with Mahesh and Nandha for wing-play and securing the ball back on time. The team, playing in a 4-2-3-1 shape, has also become faster and smoother in transitions compared to last season and it was one of the six ISL teams to start its first-team squad in the tournament. The same strategy – the same bunch of players playing more games together – saw Bengaluru win the title last season and also make it to the ISL final.

Bigger calendar

"We have always been talking about Indian football and the points are always the same. It's about to make a bigger calendar there with longer competitions... so there are at least around 40 games per season. It's an average number that gives you at least 11 months of competition," Cuadrat said.

East Bengal had started the tournament with two quick goals in the first half against the Bangladesh Army Football Team. But in the second half, it conceded cheaply in the last three minutes of regulation time. Cuadrat looked visibly upset that his team dropped two points. And that mistake never happened in the rest of the tournament until the final.

East Bengal beat the ISL champion and then Punjab FC, the I-League champion, in the remaining group stage matches to secure a spot in the quarterfinals. It knocked out NorthEast United on penalties and the 2019 Durand Cup champion Gokulam Kerala in the next phase.

Though the team failed to complete a double over Mohun Bagan, Cuadrat's boys can hold their heads high.

Cuadrat, the man from the land of red-and-yellow, has led his boys in the same colours in a different country thousands of miles away. With the ISL and Federation Cup ahead, the silver in the Durand Cup would be seen as an appetiser by the Spaniard.

THE GIST

- East Bengal defeated Mohun Bagan Super Giant in the first Kolkata derby under his charge, qualified for the Durand Cup knockouts as the group-topper and reached the Durand Cup final after 19 years
- The Red and Gold brigade has utilised Cuadrat's keen eye to pick players judiciously. The team has made 15 new signings (loan and permanent transfers) and the nucleus of the side has been built around them
- India's centre-back Bheke feels the Spaniard is a tactically sound coach who is a specialist in set-pieces

GAME TIME

Test your knowledge on the Asian Games extravaganza

Pranay Rajiv

QUESTION 1
The 1954 Asian Games, which took place in Manila, was opened by the then-president of the host nation. Who was this person, whose name continues to be remembered by many, mostly on a yearly basis?

QUESTION 2
Nearly three decades ago X became the first non-capital city to host an Asian Games. The reason to choose X was to show the remarkable resilience of the host country to bounce back from utter devastation. ID X.

QUESTION 3
The Most Valuable Player (MVP) award was installed in the Asian Games in 1998. Since then, the award has been dominated by swimmers. If Koji Ito of Japan is one of the non-swimmers to become the MVP, who is the other? (hint - badminton player in 2010)

QUESTION 4
Earlier this year, Sports Authority of India launched a short movie series on the journey of Asian Games-bound athletes. The series was titled X, which is also the title of a 2007 Hindi movie starring Ajay Devgn and Vidya Balan among others. But you would recognise X more for being the popular chant of an IPL team. ID X.

QUESTION 5
It is said that Jawaharlal Nehru personally asked X to score a goal for India ahead of the 1951 Asian Games final against Iran. X would duly score the only goal of the final to secure the gold for his country. ID X.

QUESTION 6
This team sport was introduced in the Asian Games in 2010. It would miss out in 2014 but would make a comeback in 2018. China, as expected, has dominated this sport, which shares a visible similarity with a sporting event, from a southern Indian state, which gathers a lot of attention around this time of the year. Which is this sport, which will be a part of the Hangzhou games?

QUESTION 7
X is one of the three countries to have participated in the Asian Games and not won a medal. X also is the possessor of another curiosity, thanks to its name. The second part of its name (in Malay) means the same as its first part (English). Interestingly the country's other recognised name is also tautological, albeit in Portuguese and Malay.

QUESTION 8
_____ is the only current Indian athlete to hold an Asian Games record in athletics. He achieved the feat in the 2018 Asian Games. He is also the Asian record holder in his event. Fill in the blank.

QUESTION 9
Pakistan has been the most dominant nation in men's hockey, having won eight gold medals. Which country is the second-best in the event, with four gold medals?

Question 10
Identify this sportsperson who won India's first gold in the Asian Games.

THE ANSWERS

1. Ramon Magsaysay; 2. Hiroshima; 3. Lin Dan; 4. Halla Bol; 5. Sheoo Mewalal; 6. Dragon Boat; 7. East Timor/ Timor Leste; 8. Tajinderpal Toor; 9. South Korea; 10. Sachin Nag, winner of the 100m freestyle swimming event

Fatal accidents on Bengaluru-Mysuru Expressway come down drastically

Limiting maximum speed to 100 kmph, ban on slow-moving traffic, and intensified highway patrolling are some of the reasons, say police

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The number of fatal accidents on the Bengaluru-Mysuru Expressway, which has received a lot of flak over how fatal it has turned out to be, has reduced over the past two months. While May and June recorded 29 and 28 fatalities respectively, July and August reported only 8 and 6.

"The number of fatal accidents has reduced significantly, thanks to a host of measures, chief among them restricting the maximum speed to 100 kmph and ensuring lane discipline through strict enforcement," said Alok Kumar, Additional Director-General of Police (ADGP), Traffic and Road Safety, Karnataka. He has been spearheading a campaign to make the expressway safer for the past two months.

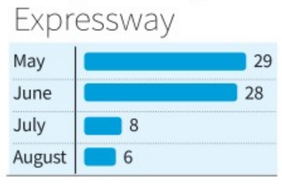
Offenders involved in accidents on the expressway have had their driving licences suspended for a minimum of six months. BHAGYA PRAKASH K.

Following a spurt in fatal accidents after the expressway was inaugurated, the State police commissioned a study on the causes.

The study identified speeding and lack of lane discipline as the chief causes for fatal accidents. This prompted the police to limit the maximum speed to 100 kmph and ban two-wheelers and all slow-moving vehicles.

"While banning two-wheelers has definitely helped reduce accidents, the problem still persists as bikes swerve into the expressway at entry and exit points before and after the toll gates," a senior official said.

Another major contributor to the reduction in the number of accidents is intensified highway patrolling, Mr. Kumar said.



As many as eight patrolling vehicles have been deployed, with directions for each vehicle to cover a stretch of 18 to 20 kilometres to ensure road safety and traffic discipline.

The police have also identified accident-prone black spots and the points where two-wheelers and other slow-moving vehicles are illegally entering and exiting the expressway. The patrolling vehicles have been asked to strictly monitor these points and even conduct surprise checks at these points persistently.

Six Artificial Intelligence (AI) enabled enforcement cameras presently installed on the expressway have also been of great help, Mr. Kumar said. These help the police track down the vehicles violating norms in real time, depending on the kind of violation. "We are procuring 70 more such cameras so that we can install them at shorter distances from each other for a better coverage of the expressway," Mr. Kumar said.

Meanwhile, offenders involved in accidents on the expressway have had their driving licences (DLs) suspended for a minimum of six months and a thorough evaluation of their driving skills before restoring their suspended DL.

Given the success of these measures in bringing down fatal accidents, they will be extended to other highways in the State in a phased manner, Mr. Kumar said.

George will answer your questions on power today

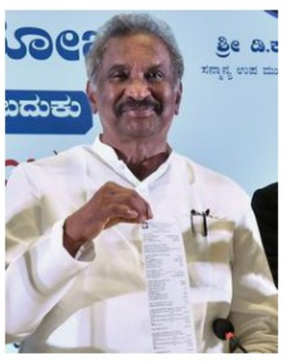
#THTALKSBENGALURU

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Be it your doubts about the new Gruha Jyothi scheme or questions about power transmission, digital meters, or anything electricity-related, you can get them answered by K.J. George, Minister of Energy, on Monday, at 4 p.m., on #THTalksBengaluru.

Mr. George, whose political career spans over five decades, is a senior Congress leader as well as the five- time MLA for Sarvagnanagar Assembly constituency (earlier represented Bharathi Nagar Assembly constituency).

He had also held several significant portfolios like Home Ministry, and Bengaluru Development and Town Planning in the Siddaramaiah Cabinet in the past. He was also the Minister of Large and Medium Scale Industries in the H.D. Kumaraswamy-led Cabinet.



Energy Minister K.J. Geroge

You can log in to the live chat (https://bit.ly/TH_George) or email your questions prior to the chat to thtalksbengaluru@thehindu.co.in.

Private bus, auto, taxi operators threaten to go on strike on Sept. 11

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The tussle between the Federation of the Karnataka State Private Transport Association and the State government hasn't been resolved. The federation has announced a "Bengaluru bandh" where all private fare transport will go off the road on September 11. This comes even as the federation claimed that the Transport Department failed to meet their 28 demands by August 31.

A total of 32 transport unions, organised under a single federation in Bengaluru, including autorickshaws, buses, taxis, cabs, have issued the strike call.

However, this is not the first such strike call issued. They issued a similar call this July, opposing the Shakti scheme, which offers free rides for women in non-premium bus services of the road transport corporations (RTCs). However, they withdrew the strike call after meeting Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy.

The Federation of the Karnataka State Private Transport Association issued a similar bandh call this July, opposing the Shakti scheme. FILE PHOTO

The Minister in the meeting had promised the unions that he will arrange a meeting with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to address their demands.

While autorickshaws and taxi drivers have demanded compensation, private bus owners have demanded that the government implement the Shakti scheme even in private buses and reimburse them for tickets issued to women.

Auto drivers and owners' unions are demanding a ban on illegal bike taxis across the city. They also want to ban aggregators who charge more than 5% commission of the total fare.

"We had presented a list of 30 demands to the Transport Minister, with assurances that 28 of them would be met by August 31. However, the government has once more overlooked our needs. Despite engaging in numerous discussions with the government, nothing has been resolved. To address our issues without causing public inconvenience, the government should arrange a public meeting before September 11. Our decision on proceeding with the strike will be based on the outcome of this meeting," Natraj Sharma, president of the Federation of Karnataka State Private Transport Association said.

Meanwhile, Mr. Reddy said that he had scheduled the meeting with the Chief Minister, but the federation failed to come and that the other transport organisations had attended the meeting.

Health Minister wants to extend operational hours of Namma Clinics in city

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Health Department is contemplating extending the operational hours of Namma Clinics in city for the benefit of daily wage workers who work throughout the day. However, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike is yet to deliberate on the same.

Minister for Health and Family Affairs Dinesh Gundu Rao said he is planning to keep the clinics, which currently close at around 5 p.m., operational till 8 p.m. This is in line with operational hours of such clinics in districts other than Bengaluru.

A file photo of a person getting checked at a Namma Clinic. At present, these clinics operate between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Mr. Gundu Rao said daily wage labourers, who are dependent on the government clinics, are unable to visit the centres in the current operational hours as they are at work. At present, clinics operate between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. Usually workers end the day's job at 5 p.m. and extending the operational hours will help them visit at their convenient time.

Mr. Gundu Rao further said he will discuss it with the health officials of the BBMP soon. Sources in the Health Department said Mr. Gundu Rao is firm on extending the time as he thinks this will benefit the workers.

K.V. Trilok Chandra, Special Commissioner (Health), BBMP, said so far there was no proposal with the BBMP to extend the hours. "If the Minister directs us to extend them, we will work on the same," he added.

19-year-old student electrocuted at PG accommodation

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 19-year-old college student was killed after being electrocuted in a paying guest accommodation at Chikkabellandur in Varthur on Thursday.

The victim, Mohammed Jasim from Thrissur in Kerala, was a student of a private college staying with his friends in Bangalore Days Home Stay, a PG accommodation.

On Thursday evening when it was raining heavily, Jasim and his friends had gone to a nearby shop and returned drenched. Jasim was drying his clothes on the wire outside his room, which accidentally came into contact with a live wire.

Jasim was electrocuted and fell to the ground. His roommates rushed him to a nearby hospital and he was shifted to another hospital where the doctors declared him "brought dead".

Sageer M.M., a businessman and uncle of the deceased, alleged negligence not only on the part of the paying guest accommodation, but also by the private hospital which, he alleged, delayed treatment.

E-paper edition

The Hindu offers more coverage of Bengaluru in the e-paper edition. (epaper.thehindu.com)

In the issue dated September 4, we take a look at the Ganesh Chaturthi festival, and explore the challenges traditional pottery-making faces due to urbanisation and the widespread availability of mass-produced goods.

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY G20

OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE

For and behalf of the President of India, the Dy. Chief Engineer/Bridge Line-I/North Western Railway, Jaipur invites online open E-Tendering system (Single Packet) for the following works on prescribed electronics forms :- **1. E-Tender No. :** DYCEBL 1-JP-2022-23, **2. Name of the work with its location :** Provision of inspection arrangement & miscellaneous works on Br.No.310 (4x45.7m OWG steel) at KM:143/3-5 UDZ-HMT sec of Ajmer Division. **3. Approx. cost of work :** Rs. 1,44,06,221.84, **4. Earnest Money to be deposited :** Rs. 2,22,000.00, **5. Completion Period :** 12 Months, **6. Date & Time closing of tender :** 03.10.2023 at 15.00 Hrs, **7. Website particulars and notice board location where complete detail of tender can be seen :** www.ireps.gov.in
936-PR/23

Follow us at /NWRailways NWRailways_

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the notice of the general public that our Client **Mr.Nagabhushan Muthulur S/o M.Nallappa Naidu, Mr.Chandra Shekar Darapaneni S/o Krishnappa.D and Mr.Krishna Pawan Darapaneni S/o Chandra Shekar.D** is iintending to purchase the schedule property mentioned hereunder from **Mrs.Latha B.T, D/o T.Thimmaiah, W/o Suresh Chnadra.J,** any person/s objecting for the proposed purchase or are having any right, title, interest or any type of claim over the scheduled property is hereby called upon to file their objections/claims what so ever along with documentary proof within **7 to 10 days** from the date of publication of this notice with the under mentioned advocate failing which; our client/s shall proceed and complete the sale transaction with the above stated person.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing **Sy.No.12/4,** measuring 0-20 Guntas, situated at **Guttahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District** bounded on the:
East by : Govt. Property.
West by : Property of Sridhar Reddy,
North by : N.H.207,
South by : Property of Muniveerappa.

M. Mahesh Das, Advocate
Maitreya Law Chambers,
294, Spoorthi Nilaya, Indoor Stadium Road, Shanthinagara South, Sulibele Main Road, Devanahalli Town-562110. MOB: 8123667379

CLASSIFIEDS MART

TO ADVERTISE VISIT
www.thehinduads.com
CALL: Bengaluru: 98455 29981 • 080-22071826
Mangaluru: 0824-2417575 • 2417580
Hubballi: 0836-2338600 • 2335700

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Abhilash S R/o #7, 7th Cross, 2nd Main, nagarbhavi Main Road, maruthi Nagar, bangalore- 560072 have changed my minor son's name from Pradyumna to Atharv for all purposes.

I, MOHANAN Pillai F/o M Sreejith R/o No 87/19 Akash Vihar, Marathahalli, Bangalore-37, have changed my name to T K Mohanan Nair vide affidavit dt 12 Aug 23 before notary A.R Muneer Ahmed, B'luru.

REAL ESTATE

DNR HIGHLINE @ Okalipuram near LULU Mall Rajajinagar 3 & 4 Bedroom Flats with 7 Star Luxurious Amenities for Sale. for details Contact : 9844027560.

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE LXVIII ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE AT BENGALURU (CCH-69)
O.S No. 2584/2023
Between:
M/s. ICICI Bank Limited, having its registered office at : Landmark, Race-Course Circle, Vadodara-390007, and branch office at : 4/10, Mythree Tower, Bommanahalli, Hosur Main Road, Bengaluru-560068 And also having branch at: MG Road, Bengaluru, through its Authorised representative Mr. Rohith Ali M. **...Plaintiff**
And :
Mr. Parlapalli Vijaya Bhaskar **...Defendant**
SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION UNDER ORDER V RULE 20 OF CPC
Defendant :
Mr. Parlapalli Vijaya Bhaskar
S/o. Ramana Reddy Parlapalli
Aged about 29 Years
R/at No.15, First Block, Dodda Bommasandra Arch, Near Krishna Temple, Yeshwanthpur, Bangalore-560097.
Whereas the plaintiff above named has instituted the above suit for recovery of money for sum of **Rs. 9,35,712.53/-** along with interest at the rate of 24% P.A. against you, and you are summoned to appear before the LXVIII Addl. City Civil & Sessions Judge at Bengaluru (C.C.H- 69), in person or by a pleader, on the day of **22-09-2023** at **11:00 A.M** to answer the claim, failing to which the suit would be disposed of Ex-Parte.
Given under my hand and seal of the court on this the 18th day of August, 2023 at Bangalore.
By order of the Court, Assistant Registrar, Hon'ble City Civil Court, Bengaluru.
Advocate for Plaintiff
B.S. Jeevan Kumar
Vidhii Partners,
Advocates,
No. 701, Queens Corner 'A',
3, Queens Road,
Bengaluru- 01.

IN THE COURT OF THE LXVIII ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE AT BENGALURU (CCH-69)
O.S No. 2592/2023
Between :
M/s ICICI Bank Limited, having its registered office at : Landmark, Race-Course Circle, Vadodara-390007, having its head office at and Zonal office at : 4/10, My three Tower, Bommanahalli, Hosur Main Road, Bengaluru-560068 And also having branch at MG Road, Bengaluru, through its Authorised representative
Mr. Rohith Ali M. **...Plaintiff**
And :
Mr. Mithun Kumar P M **...Defendant**
SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION UNDER ORDER V RULE 20 OF CPC
Defendant:
Mr. Mithun Kumar P M
Aged about 32 Years
S/o. Pathi Adinarayana Setty Manjunath
R/at No. 33, Krishna Kuteer Green House, Shobha Amethyst Apartments, Kannamangala, Near Shobha Amethyst Apartments, Bengaluru- 560067.
Whereas the plaintiff above named has instituted the above suit for recovery of money for sum of **Rs. 12,30,471.12/-** along with interest at the rate of 24% P.A. against you, and you are summoned to appear before the **LXVIII Addl. City Civil & Sessions Judge at Bengaluru (C.C.H- 69)**, in person or by a pleader, on the day of **22-09-2023 at 11:00 AM** to answer the claim, failing to which the suit would be disposed of Ex-Parte.
Given under my hand and seal of the court on this the 18th day of August, 2023 at Bangalore.
By order of the Court, Assistant Registrar, Hon'ble City Civil Court, Bengaluru.
Advocate for Plaintiff
B.S. Jeevan Kumar
Vidhii Partners, Advocates,
No. 701, Queens Corner 'A',
3, Queens Road,
Bengaluru- 01.

IN THE COURT OF ELURU :: W.G. DIST.. A.P.
SC, ST DISTRICT JUDGE
O.P. No.165/2023
Between :
Kommaraju Purnachandra Rao .... Petitioners
And
Munna Yadav & Others ..... Respondents
STEPS PETITION FOLED BEHALF OF THE PETITIONER UNDER ORDER - 5 RULE 20 OF CPC
To : **2. M/s. South India Auto Logistics,** Owner of Container Lorry bearing No. KA 01 AH 2354, R/o. C-1306, Mantri Tranquil Surery #7, 9-13, Gubbala Village, Office K.P. Road, Banglore, KA - 560061.
In the above members Petition on 05.10.2023 here is an adjornment for the purpose to same the notice R2 Before Hon'ble SC, ST Judge Court Eluru on the day at above 10.30 am. R2 has to appear before the hon'ble Court either individually by engaging advocate other to Raise objections. Otherwise Court will pronounce others against them.
Place : Eluru Date : 02-09-2023
Sd/- **B. VARAHALA RAO**
Advocate,
Eluru, A.P., India. Cell : 94406 53935

IN THE COURT OF THE LXVIII ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE AT BENGALURU (CCH-69)
O.S. No. 2591/2023
Between :
M/s. ICICI Bank Limited, Having its Registered Office at: Landmark, Race-Course Circle, Vadodara- 390007, having its head office at and Zonal office at: 4/10, My three Tower, Bommanahalli, Hosur Main Road, Bengaluru-560068 And also having branch at, MG Road, Bengaluru, through its Authorised representative
Mr. Rohith Ali M. **...Plaintiff**
And :
Mr. Sunil S. **...Defendant**
SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION UNDER ORDER V RULE 20 OF CPC
Defendant :
Mr. Sunil S.
S/o. Shanthappa,
Aged About 37 Years,
R/at No. 3, Ground Floor, 5th "A" Main Road, Hebbal, Near Cafe Coffee Day, Bangolore- 560024.
Whereas the plaintiff above named has instituted the above suit for recovery of money for sum of Rs. 4,80,375.02/- along with interest at the rate of 24% P.A. against you, and you are summoned to appear before the LXVIII Addl. City Civil & Sessions Judge at Bengaluru (C.C.H-69), in person or by a pleader, on the day of 22/09/2023 at 11:00 A.M to answer the claim, failing to which the suit would be disposed of Ex-Parte.
Given under my hand and seal of the court on this the 18th day of August, 2023 at Bangalore.
By order of the Court, Assistant Registrar, Hon'ble City Civil Court, Bengaluru.
Advocate for Plaintiff
B.S. Jeevan Kumar
Vidhii Partners,
Advocates,
No. 701, Queens Corner 'A',
3, Queens Road,
Bengaluru -01

IN THE COURT OF CITY CIVIL AND SESSION JUDGE, MAYO HALL AT BANGALORE (CCH 21) BENGALURU- 560 001
O.S. No.26336/ 2022
BETWEEN :
M/S ICICI BANK LIMITED
MITTAL TOWER, M.G.Road, Bangalore- 560001
Represented by its officer of Power of Attorney Holder
Ms. Mansi Singh
Aged about 24 years
D/o Mr. Anil Kumar Singh **...PLAINTIFF**
AND :
1. Mr. Vijaya Kumar .A
S/o Ramaiah, Aged About 52 years, No. 48, Kudlu KCDC Main Road, Near BBMP Office, Bengaluru- 560068.
2. R. Nagaveni W/o Vijaya Kumar. A, Aged About 38 years, No. 48, Kudlu KCDC Main Road, Near BBMP Office, Bengaluru- 560068.
...DEFENDANT
SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT
Whereas, the above named Plaintiff has filed a Civil Suit for Recovery of a sum of **Rs. 13,08,621.27/- (Rupees Thirteen Lakhs Eight Thousand Six Hundred Twenty One And Paisa Twenty Seven Only)** apart from future interest of 13.01%, in **O.S. No. 26336/2022** and same is pending adjudication in **CCH 21**, Before Addl. City Civil Court Mayohall, Bengaluru.
You are hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble Court on the **11th** Day of **October, 2023** at **11:00 A.M.** to answer to the same, if failed the suit will be decided in your absence, Exparte.
Given under my Hand and Seal of the Court this the **24th** day of **August, 2023.**
By the order of court
Deputy Registrar,
City Civil Court,
Mayohall,
BENGALURU- 560 001.
FX & CO.,
ADVOCATES,
New No.9, Old No.11/1
Gover Road, Cox Town,
BENGALURU- 560 005.

The importance of testing menstrual products with human blood

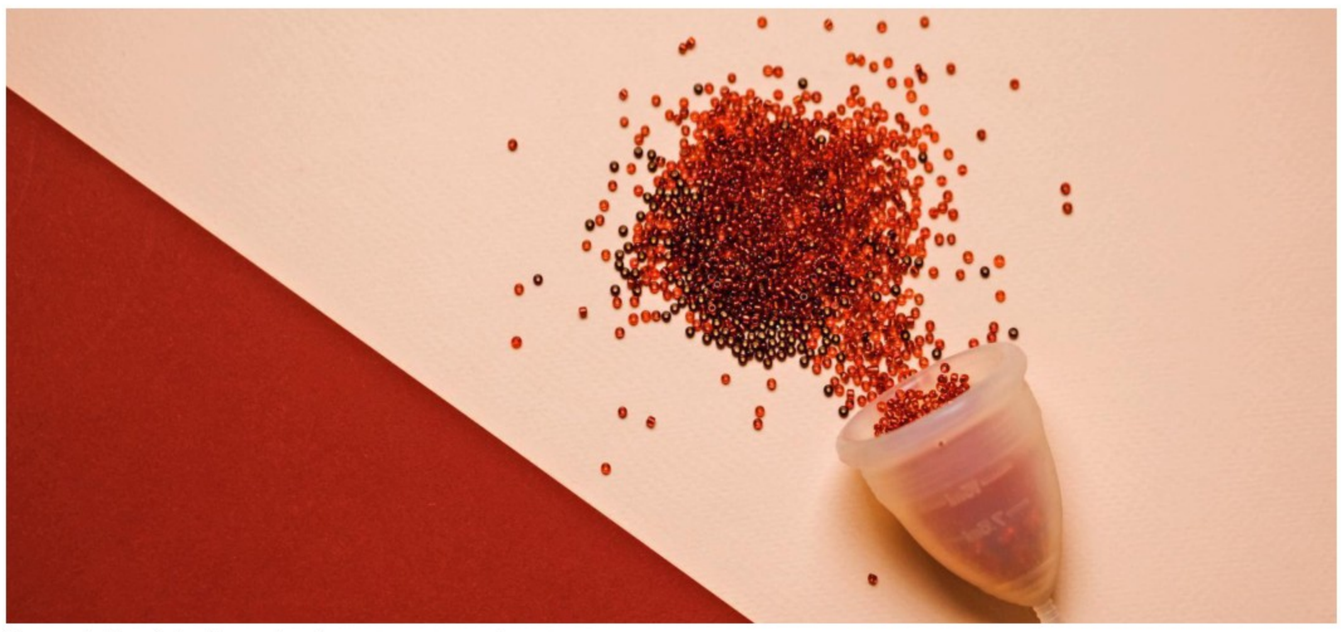
Scientists found the advertised capacities of many products to be misleading and that menstrual cups and discs could hold the most blood. Their data raise important questions about how doctors diagnose heavy menstrual bleeding

Sneha Khedkar

Blood really is thicker than water –yet makers of menstrual products have traditionally used saline to estimate how much liquid they can hold.

The capacity of traditional menstrual products to absorb is a common way to measure the amount of blood lost. Clinicians use it to diagnose heavy menstrual bleeding, which affects roughly a third of menstruating individuals worldwide (from 18.2% in China to 37.9% in Turkey) and could be a sign of more worrying ailments, such as fibroids.

But diagnosis is complicated when individuals use non-traditional products such as discs and cups and when products' advertised abilities are imprecise.



Representative photo of a menstrual cup. POLINA KOVALEVA/PEXELS

'No data with blood'

Now, researchers from the Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU) have reported, in a study published in the journal *BMJ Sexual & Reproductive Health* on August 7, the absorbency of both traditional and non-traditional period products using not saline or other fluids but with human blood.

They found the advertised capacities of many products to be misleading.

Supriya Kamath, an MS in obstetrics and gynaecology from Mumbai's K.E.M. Hospital whose residency starts in November, noted the importance of using blood to test menstrual products, "since it is blood and not urine which has to be absorbed". (Saline is akin to urine.)

Bethany Samuelson Bannow, a co-author of the published paper and an assistant professor of medicine at OHSU, said the increasing fraction of their patient population using menstrual cups motivated her team to assess the absorbency of non-traditional products as well."We decided to pursue information around how much alternative period products absorb," Dr. Bannow told this writer in an email. "While reviewing testing methods for disposable products, [we] realised that there are no data on maximum absorption of these products with blood."

From underwear to discs

Her team used packed red blood cells (RBCs) separated from whole blood to assess the capacity of 21 common products, including discs, cups, tampons, sanitary pads, and underwear. The brands they chose are commercially available in the U.S. and Europe; some are available online in India.

For their tests, the team chose pads of two brands with different reported absorbencies, tampons from one brand, and three pairs of period underwear with the same reported absorbency. They also tested menstrual cups of different sizes from one brand and discs of two sizes from different brands.

To measure the absorbency of pads and period underwear, the team poured RBCs over the central upper third until the RBCs pooled below or the product stopped absorbing them.

To assess the capacity of tampons, the researchers placed each tampon in a cup with 50 ml of RBCs for 30 minutes or until the blood reached the wick, and recorded how much the tampon had absorbed. They also filled cups and discs with RBCs to the brim and measured the volume.

They found that menstrual underwear products, regardless of size, soaked the least amount of blood - only 2 ml on average, which Dr. Bannow said was surprising. Menstrual discs held the most: 61 ml on average, with one brand holding about 80 ml. Tampons, sanitary pads, and menstrual cups held 20-50 ml.

What is heavy bleeding?

To Dr. Bannow, the principal conclusion was that menstrual cups and discs can hold a large amount of blood. So people who saturate or fill these products multiple times per cycle are likely to have heavy menstrual bleeding.

"The bottomline is we want every person who menstruates to know whether their periods are truly 'normal,' and to have access to evaluations and treatments if their periods are heavy."

The researchers also found their measurements to disagree with advertisements.

> Researchers have reported in the journal *BMJ Sexual & Reproductive Health* the absorbency of both traditional and non-traditional period products using not saline fluids but human blood

"We were not terribly surprised that pads and tampons absorbed more blood than saline," said Dr. Bannow, adding that this had been reported but not published before. While a product holding more blood can be interpreted as a good thing, the elevated absorbency could hide heavy bleeding.

"Being aware of what's normal and what's heavy is important since heavy menstrual bleeding can cause health complications," Dr. Kamath said.

"The viscosities and composition of blood and water are very different and we can't expect a product to have similar holding capacities for the two liquids," said Ananya Petkar, an independent gynaecologist. "This study is a great attempt to check the absorbing capacity of different products."

The authors, including Dr. Bannow, acknowledged in their paper that while RBCs are more viscous than saline, they are still not a perfect proxy for menstrual blood, which also includes endometrial cells and vaginal secretions. The consistency of menstrual blood also differs between individuals and on different days.

Dr. Bannow & co. are now studying menstrual cups and period underwear in individuals with heavy menstrual bleeding.

Too little research

Dr. Petkar also noted that the researchers measured the amount of blood that products could hold by filling each item. But in reality, women may not wait until a pad is completely soaked or a cup filled to change it. This also creates variance between the study's findings and the products' actual use and their clinical implications.

Another limitation of the application of this study in India, according to both Dr. Kamath and Dr. Petkar, is that not all products tested are just as available in India as they are elsewhere. Dr. Kamath singled out cups and discs for their relatively lower use in India because that requires "practice and a little knowledge of the female anatomy".

"If we know the correct method to measure blood loss, only then can we educate others and catch and treat heavy menstrual bleeding," Dr. Kamath said. "To do so, we need more research on this topic."

Research on menstruation remains limited. A 2020 review found 400 papers in 2011-2018 mentioning "menstrual blood" in the PubMed database while more than 10,000 mentioned semen.

"I think people in general need to feel more comfortable discussing periods," said Dr. Bannow. She expressed delight at the attention her recent study has received. It "is pushing a discussion around menstruation to the forefront."

(Sneha Khedkar is a biologist-turned freelance science journalist based out of Bengaluru)

THE GIST

The capacity of menstrual products to absorb is a way to measure blood lost. Clinicians use it to diagnose heavy menstrual bleeding, which affects roughly a third of menstruating individuals worldwide (from 18.2% in China to 37.9% in Turkey) and could be a sign of other ailments

Packed red blood cells separated from whole blood were used to assess the capacity of 21 common products, including discs, cups, tampons, sanitary pads, and underwear. The brands chosen are commercially available in the U.S. and Europe; some are available online in India

While a product holding more blood can be interpreted as a good thing, the elevated absorbency could hide heavy bleeding

BIG SHOT

A dry reservoir behind the 16th century Guzelce aqueduct at the Alibey Dam in Istanbul on Saturday. Due to heatwaves and lack of rain this summer, drought conditions have set in. Istanbul's dams' occupancy rates have decreased by 28.65%. Increased temperatures have seen water consumption rise across the city. GETTY IMAGES

WHAT IS IT?

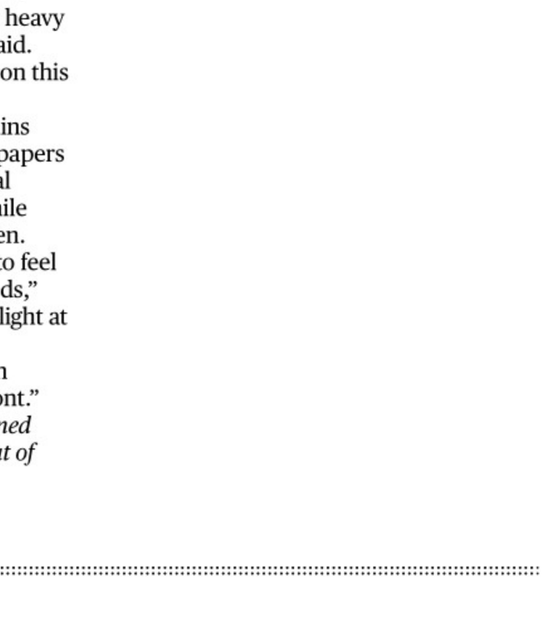
Cartesian coordinates: a means to find your way

Arkatapa Basu

A coordinate system is a set of numbers that allows you to specify the location of a point in some space. The Cartesian coordinates is one such system, which uses a set of three numbers to specify the distance of a point from three perpendicular planes. In general, this system uses *N* numbers if there are *N* perpendicular planes, including in higher dimensions.

Say you are looking for a city on Google Maps. You search for it and the app shows what it has found. The way the city is located on the map is with a latitude and a longitude. Similarly, on a plane, Cartesian coordinates use a pair of numbers – one on the x-axis, one on the y-axis – that can be used to locate a specific point on the plane. In three dimensions, the point's location can be fixed by adding one more number, e.g. the floor of the building you are on.

The French philosopher and mathematician René Descartes created this system in the 17th century. His invention bridged the gap between algebra and geometry and created analytic geometry. The coordinates also have an array of applications in astronomy, engineering, and most other disciplines that involve geometry, including representing spatial data in computer graphics and computer-aided geometric design.



Plotting on a Cartesian plane. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

For feedback and suggestions
for 'Science', please write to
science@thehindu.co.in
with the subject 'Daily page'

Mankind
Serving Life

DMF
Quality Medicines
manufactured in USA/EU approved plants for Indian Patients

DMF QUALITY API
Manufactured with US DMF/EU Quality API

At Mankind Pharma, we believe that every Indian, irrespective of their economic background, has the right to get Medicines of International Quality.

Today we have proudly launched more than 120 DMF Quality Medicines with a committed vision to bring the best medicines at affordable prices for every Indian.

Where can you find one of the best quality medicines available in the world?

01

Medicines in the **USA** comply with stringent **USFDA's** norms for quality, safety and effectiveness; defined by **DMF (Drug Master File)**.

Hence, patients in the USA get better quality medicines with better efficacy.

02

What is DMF and why is it important?

Drug Master File (DMF) has all the information on an API (Active Pharmaceutical Ingredient/Raw material for medicine). It provides all the information on the manufacturing, stability, quality, packaging, purity and impurity profile for authorities to ensure that medicines have the best quality and efficacy.

DMF is important because any drug sold in the USA should be of DMF Quality only.

DMF QUALITY API
Manufactured with US DMF/EU Quality API

What is DMF QUALITY API?

DMF Quality API is the purest and best form of API as it is manufactured at a **USFDA**-approved plant.

Thus, the final medicine is always one of the best quality with better efficacy.

03

How is DMF Quality API different from Normal API used in the Indian domestic market?

DMF Quality API is purer than normal API because it follows cGMP norms and is manufactured at only **USFDA**-approved plants.

A DMF Quality medicine is better than Non-DMF medicine in terms of quality & efficacy.

04

Mankind Pharma Limited

262, Okhla Industrial Estate,
Phase-III, New Delhi-110020

To know more about
DMF Medicines scan the QR code

Visit us at: www.mankindpharma.com | Follow us on:

A BG-BGE

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Losses suffered by Himachal tourism sector in two months

2,000 in crore. The tourism sector in Himachal suffered heavy losses in July and August. This sector contributes over ₹14,000 crore annually to H.P's GDP. PTI

Foreign portfolio investments in August, lowest in four months

12,262 in crore. This is the lowest investment in the last four months. FPIs invested over ₹40,000 crore each in the past three months in Indian equities. PTI

Proposed budget of Japan's defence ministry in next fiscal

53 in $ billion. This budget proposal is part of its biggest military buildup since the second World War. Japan aims to double defence spending to 2% of GDP by 2027, citing China and North Korea. REUTERS

Number of people recruited to the Russian Army in 2023

2.8 in lakh. Russia's former president and Security Council chairman Dmitry Medvedev said on Sunday that Moscow had recruited some 2,80,000 people into the army since the start of the year. AFP

The number of illegal migrants who entered the U.K. on same day

872 The number of migrants crossing the Channel from northern France to Britain hit a new daily high for 2023, statistics released on Sunday showed. AFP

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

Follow us facebook.com/thehindu twitter.com/the_hindu instagram.com/the_hindu

Status of the Right to Information Act

What have been the various amendments to the RTI Act, 2005? How have payment methods and poorly staffed information commissions undermined the Act? Has the process of applying for an RTI online been simplified? Is the public satisfied with the functioning of the RTI process?

EXPLAINER

Aroon Deep

The story so far:

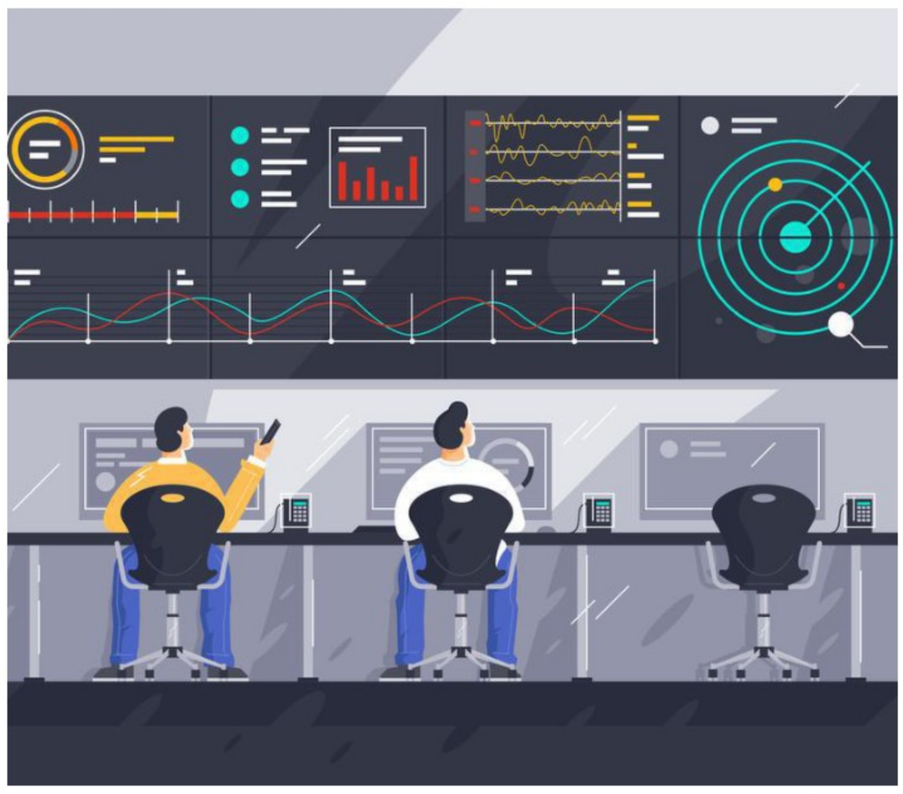
For 13 years, the Right to Information Act, 2005, helped citizens obtain information and data from Central and State institutions that are not readily available in the public domain. The RTI Act allows any citizen to make requests for access to data, documents, and other information in the government's possession. India's RTI Act has been commonly cited as among the most comprehensive public records access legislations in the world. In recent years, though, activists worry that the system is being made less and less effective, shutting off a crucial means to hold public officials accountable.

Has the RTI Act been amended?

Apart from allowing certain information to be kept secret for national security and sovereignty reasons, the RTI Act makes one exemption – it prohibits the personal data disclosure of citizens by the government, unless there is an overriding public interest in doing so.

The Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023, amended this qualified prohibition into a total prohibition. However, the National Campaign for Peoples' Right to Information (NCPRI) argued that it would make 'social audits' in ration distribution impossible to carry out. In social audits, a community member gets a list of ration beneficiaries through an RTI request, and individually verifies that the beneficiaries got what they appear to have received on paper. There are also concerns that powerful public officials would evade accountability by invoking this blanket ban on disclosing personal information.

Past amendments to the RTI Act have also raised concerns. The Right to Information (Amendment) Act, 2019 gave the Union Government unilateral power in deciding how long information commissioners, who hear appeals against unsatisfactory or absent RTI responses, can serve, and what their salaries are.



ISTOCKPHOTO

How else is the RTI Act undermined?

The RTI Act itself isn't the only way activists see the transparency it has ushered in undermined. The RTI Act's implementation is dependent on subordinate rules made by the Union Government and State Governments. For instance, the simple matter of what payment method a public authority can accept is left to the States to decide. Some States like Tamil Nadu do not accept Indian Postal Orders (IPOs), which are cheques that can be bought at post offices and attached to an application as payment. IPOs are generally the easiest payment method to obtain. Other payment methods are less convenient or otherwise burdensome – court fee stamps can only be purchased at a courthouse, and a demand draft for ₹10 may require a processing fee that is over twice that amount.

Tardy appointments to information commissions – the Central Information Commission (CIC) for the Union Government, and various State Information Commissions (SICs) – have also undermined confidence in the RTI framework, as appeals can take months or even years to be heard, if ever. For example, the Jharkhand SIC has had no commissioners to hear appeals since May 2020, essentially suspending the ability to appeal ineffective administration of the RTI Act in the State.

What about online RTIs?

Allowing RTI applications to be filed online largely removes some barriers – instead of obtaining uncommon financial instruments, citizens can simply file a request online and pay with UPI. However, many States do not have an online RTI portal, and even if they do, it is common for many State Government bodies to simply not be registered on the portal.

The Union Government's RTI portal – launched in 2013 – is also past its prime. While many public authorities under the Union Government are on the portal, filing applications on it has become harder. Having an account on the RTIOnline portal allowed citizens to have their personal particulars filled in on each application by default. Now, however, the facility to create an account has disappeared, and the site forces all users to enter their particulars afresh each time they file an application. Further, past data of applicants has been stuttering in and out of the portal. In August, data of applications filed by users before 2022 disappeared without a trace, and after *The Hindu* reported this, the Government restored the applications.

What next?

Beyond the evident structural problems that institutions and websites for RTI pose, dissatisfaction is growing at the most basic level. More and more first appeals are being filed, Venkatesh Nayak, Director of the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative NGO, said in an analysis of the newest report by the CIC. This indicates, according to Mr. Nayak, that people are increasingly dissatisfied with the information they are receiving from public officials. While activists have long warned of the weakening of the RTI Act, most of the damage they have seen is not merely from changes in the text of the law, but from the ways that various institutions across different Government apparatuses discharge their duties, in the narrowing of avenues to conveniently file requests and obtain information after doing so, and having appeals fall on unstaffed appellate bodies.

THE GIST

- The RTI Act's implementation is dependent on subordinate rules made by the Union Government and State Governments. For instance, the simple matter of what payment method a public authority can accept is left to the States to decide.
- Allowing RTI applications to be filed online largely removes some barriers — instead of obtaining uncommon financial instruments, citizens can simply file a request online and pay with UPI. However, many States do not have an online RTI portal.
- While activists have long warned of the weakening of the RTI Act, most of the damage they have seen is not merely from changes in the text of the law, but from the ways that various institutions across different Government apparatuses discharge their duties.

What is the debate around 'one nation, one election'?

How does having simultaneous elections across Lok Sabha and State assemblies counter federalism?

Kartikey Singh

The story so far:

On September 1, the Central government set up a panel headed by former President Ram Nath Kovind to explore the feasibility of the 'one nation, one election' (ONOE) plan.

What is the ONOE plan?

The idea of ONOE centres around the concept of synchronising the timing of Lok Sabha and State Assembly elections across all States to reduce the frequency of polls throughout the country.

After the enforcement of the Constitution on January 26, 1950, the first-ever general elections to Lok Sabha and all State Assemblies were conducted simultaneously in 1951-1952. The practice continued into the three subsequent Lok Sabha elections until 1967, after which it was disrupted. The cycle was first broken in 1959 after the Centre invoked Article 356 (failure of constitutional machinery) of the Constitution to dismiss the then-Kerala government. Subsequently, due to defections and counter-defections between parties, several Legislative Assemblies dissolved post-1960, which eventually led to separate polls for Lok Sabha and State Assemblies. Currently, the assembly polls in the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Andhra Pradesh and Odisha are held together with the Lok Sabha elections.

What do reports say about ONOE?

In August 2018, the Law Commission of India (LCI), chaired by Justice B. S. Chauhan, released a draft report on simultaneous elections, wherein the constitutional and legal questions related to the issue were analysed. Notably, the Commission submitted that simultaneous elections are not feasible within the existing framework of the Constitution. It said that the Constitution, the Representation of the People's Act 1951 and the Rules of Procedure of Lok Sabha and State Assemblies would require appropriate amendments to conduct simultaneous polls. The commission also recommended it receive ratification from at least 50% of the States. However, with respect to the advantages of holding simultaneous polls, the commission said that ONOE will lead to the saving of public money, reducing the strain on the administrative setup and security forces, timely implementation of government policies, and administrative focus on development activities rather than electioneering.

Way back in 1999, the LCI headed by Justice B. P. Jeevan Reddy also advocated for simultaneous elections.

What are the concerns?

The foremost concern is with regard to its feasibility. Article 83(2) and 172 of the Constitution stipulates that the tenure of Lok Sabha and State Assemblies respectively will last for five years unless dissolved earlier and there can be circumstances, as in Article 356, wherein assemblies can be dissolved earlier. Therefore, the ONOE plan raises serious questions – what would happen if the Central or State government collapses mid-tenure? Would elections be held again in every State or will the President's rule be imposed? Amending the Constitution for such a significant change would not only necessitate extensive consideration of various situations and provisions but would also set a concerning precedent for more constitutional amendments.

Second, the idea of ONOE does not square with the concept of 'federalism' as it is established on the notion that the entire nation is "one" contradicting the content of Article 1 which envisages India as a "Union of States". Third, the present form of recurrent elections can be seen as beneficial in a democracy as it allows voters to have their voices heard more frequently. As the underlying issues of national and State polls are different, the present framework prevents the blending of issues, ensuring greater accountability.

The Central government has also highlighted the substantial costs associated with frequent elections. However, this notion is misleading. In an article in *The Hindu*, the author contended whether the Election Commission's expenditure of ₹8,000 crore over five years, amounting to ₹1,500 crore annually, or ₹27 per voter per year, can be considered a 'massive' expense for maintaining the pride of being the world's largest electoral democracy.

The writer reads law at RGNUL, Punjab

THE GIST

- On September 1, the Central government set up a panel to explore the feasibility of the 'one nation, one election' (ONOE) plan.
- The idea of ONOE centres around the concept of synchronising the timing of Lok Sabha and State Assembly elections across all States to reduce the frequency of polls throughout the country.
- The idea of ONOE does not square with the concept of 'federalism' as it is established on the notion that the entire nation is "one" contradicting the content of Article 1 which envisages India as a "Union of States".

Five years after Nagamohan Das panel submitted its report, UDD says it is still probing bill scam

Report had recommended specific actions against contractors and officials who were at fault

Shreyas H.S.
BENGALURU

The Urban Development Department (UDD) has claimed it is still probing the ₹1,500 crore bill scam in the city's civic body during 2008-2012, five years after the Nagamohan Das Committee, which probed the allegations, submitted its report recommending action against officials and contractors in 2018.

This gains significance in the light of Mr. Nagamohan Das again chairing a single-man commission to probe allegations of "40% commission" in State government contracts, including that of the UDD, during the previous BJP regime and raises questions on the effectiveness of these commissions.

The government has set a three-month deadline to probe allegations in key departments like Public Works, Panchayat Raj and Rural, and others. The UDD has formed four special investigation teams to investigate the 40% bribery allegations in civic works in the BBMP.

The ₹1,500 crore bill scam was reported in the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike during 2008-2012. FILE PHOTO

Responding to a Right To Information plea by activist Amaresh S., seeking a copy of the Justice Nagamohan Das Commission report into the bill scam and action taken thereof, the UDD has refused to share the report, saying the matter was still under investigation.

The report had recommended specific actions against contractors and officials who were at fault in the scam. The report had also suggested blacklisting of erring contractors. These were pertaining to civic works undertaken in three Assembly constituencies: Rajarajeshwarinagar, Malleswaram, and Gandhinagar.

According to the RTI documents accessed by *The Hindu*, the UDD in response to the request said: "You (applicant) have sought report of Justice Nagamohan Das report on probe into a scam that occurred between 2008-2012 including a letter that was written in 2021 by the UDD on 314 officials/engineers. But, the same cannot be shared as a probe by the UDD based on Justice Nagamohan Das Commission report has not concluded yet".

The UDD response has left Mr. Nagamohan Das wondering. He said that his report that was accepted by the government had only recommended action against officials and contractors and there was no need for further investigation.

"I had meticulously investigated going through 6,000 files of the BBMP and shockingly each document exposed malpractices. The malpractices include generating fake bills, executing works without any work order, issuing completion certificates without carrying out works. There was nothing to probe further. After the report was submitted, the government had formed a committee to implement the recommendations, not probe further. Some of these recommendations may have been partially implemented," Mr. Nagamohan Das said.

Mr. Amaresh said he was at a loss as to how the UDD could still be investigating an over a decade-old scam and refused to give him a copy of the report that was tabled in the Assembly and it "raised suspicions on their motives".

BBMP to hand over ₹95.5 lakh to family of Chief Engineer

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) will be handing over ₹95.5 lakh to the family of the deceased Chief Engineer (Quality Control and Laboratory), Shivakumar, to cover the educational expenses of his children.

Mr. Shivakumar who was injured along with eight others in a fire accident that occurred at the laboratory on August 12, succumbed to injuries on August 30.

The BBMP staff have now decided to contribute for the education of his children. While Group A workers will be contributing ₹3,000 each, Group B, C, and D workers will be contributing ₹2,000, ₹1,500, and ₹1,000 respectively.

The money will be deducted directly from their salaries.

Meanwhile, in memory of Mr. Shivakumar, the BBMP Employees' Cooperative Society and the BBMP Employees' Welfare Association will be gifting two ambulances to the BBMP which will be permanently stationed at the head office.

The ambulances will have all the high-tech facilities to carry staffers to hospitals during emergencies.

Shivamogga teacher transferred for allegedly asking students to 'go to Pakistan'

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

A teacher at a Urdu Government Higher Primary School in Shivamogga has been transferred following allegations that she asked students to "go to Pakistan", while scolding them for making noise in the classroom.

Manjula Devi, who has been working at the school located at Tipu Nagar in Shivamogga, has been transferred to the school at Hosamane tanda in Hassan taluk.

Besides, the Department of School Education has ordered a departmental inquiry against her.

The teacher, while handling her class on August 30, allegedly asked a couple of students, who were making noise, to "go to Pakistan". The children conveyed this to their parents. Meanwhile, a few people recorded videos of the students' statements and circulated them on social media platforms.

P. Nagaraj, Block Education Officer, told *The Hindu* that as soon as he learnt about the video clips, he visited the school and made an inquiry. "The teacher has refuted the allegation. She said that she just scolded the students to not make noise. However, the students reiterated their allegation. Now, she has been deputed to a rural school, and a departmental inquiry has been ordered," the officer said.

The teacher reported to her new post on September 1.

Text & Context and Science

Weekday features on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) carries explainers, special articles and quizzes. In the latest issue (September 4, Monday), the following articles are available:

- Has the Right to Information been weakened over the years? **bit.ly/rtiactaroon**
- The importance of testing menstrual products with human blood **bit.ly/mensturalproducts**

You can use your smartphone's inbuilt features to access these articles. If it's an Android phone, use Google Lens to read and tap the url to access an article. If it's an iPhone, use Live Text on camera to do the same.

Man held on the charge of blackmailing former colleague

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Southeast division cybercrime police recently arrested a 26-year-old hotel employee in Chennai on the charge of blackmailing a former female colleague with private videos demanding sexual favours.

The accused has been identified as Amar Hussain Faisal, a native of Darrang district in Assam. He used to work in a hotel in Bengaluru, but now worked in Chennai.

According to the police, the accused, while working in Bengaluru, had a relationship with his colleague for six months and broke up with her before returning to Assam. The accused then came to Chennai and started a job there, and then began to blackmail the victim with private videos demanding sexual favours.

He even opened three social media accounts in her name and uploaded her private pictures and threatened her that he would upload videos of their private moments, said the police.

The victim approached the police seeking help and the police formed a special team and asked her to follow the instructions of the accused.

According to the police, the accused had blackmailed the victim into coming to Chennai and even sent a vehicle to pick her up at the bus stand in Chennai.

The accused had even asked the victim to make a video call and talk to him after reaching the bus stand to ensure she was travelling alone.

However, the police caught him while he was boarding a taxi a few yards away from where the victim boarded the vehicle sent to pick her up.

The police have booked the accused for blackmail, outraging the modesty of a woman, and also under various sections of the IT Act, 2000 and are further investigating to ascertain whether the accused was involved in similar crimes with others as well.

C.K. Baba, DCP (South-East Division), Bengaluru, advised people not to comply with any blackmailers and report the matter to the police and seek help.

Timings
BENGALURU

MONDAY, SEP. 04
RISE 06:09 SET 18:29
RISE 21:56 SET 10:02

TUESDAY, SEP. 05
RISE 06:09 SET 18:28
RISE 22:42 SET 10:58

WEDNESDAY, SEP. 06
RISE 06:09 SET 18:27
RISE 23:31 SET 11:55

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	33	25
Mysuru	32	23
Bengaluru	30	22

Bengaluru Today
31ºC Morning will be pleasant. Day will be slight warm and humid. Night will be pleasant. Spell of light rain and thundershower to occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
30ºC A slight warm and humid weather to prevail.Night will be pleasant. Spell of moderate rain and thundershower will occur.

© Copyright Skymet Weather 2023
All rights reserved.

THE HINDU
DISCLAIMER: Readers are requested to verify and make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of an advertisement before responding to any published in this newspaper. THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., the Publisher & Owner of this newspaper, does not vouch for the authenticity of any advertisement or advertiser or for any of the advertiser's products and/or services. In no event can the Owner, Publisher, Printer, Editor, Director/s, Employees of this newspaper/company be held responsible/liable in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/or damages for advertisements in this newspaper.

Auto driver stabbed to death after he objects to man stalking his daughter

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 47-year-old autorickshaw driver was stabbed to death for objecting to a young man stalking his minor daughter. The incident occurred at Nanjappa Circle in Ashoknagar police station limits on Saturday night.

The police have arrested the accused Zahid, 20. According to the police, the accused used to stalk the daughter of Anwar Pasha and used to harass her for the last three months.

Anwar Pasha had warned him to back off many times but the accused continued to stalk his daughter.

On Saturday, after his daughter again complained of harassment by Zahid, Anwar Pasha went to the accused's house, and had a heated argument with the family of the accused, asking them to advise the accused to mend his ways, said the police.

According to the police, enraged by this, the accused brought a knife from inside the house and stabbed Anwar's neck and he fell to the ground bleeding profusely. Though he was rushed to a nearby hospital, he succumbed to his injuries.

The police have registered a case of murder against Zahid for further investigation.

TELANGANA STATE CIVIL SUPPLIES CORPORATION LIMITED
(A State Govt. Undertaking)
(Regd. Office: 6-3-655/1/A, CS Bhavan, Somajiguda, Hyderabad - 500082)
No. Mktg. M2/2450/KMS 2022-23/e-Auction Dt: 03-09-2023

GLOBAL e-TENDER CUM FORWARD AUCTION OF PADDY

Reference No : Mktg. M2/2450/KMS

The Telangana State Civil Supplies Corporation have issued tender notification (Reference No. Mktg. M2/2450/KMS) on 21-08-2023 for sale of 25 Lakh Mts of paddy of Yasangi (Rabi) season 2022-23. Pre bid-conference was conducted on 28-08-2023 and as per suggestions of participants modifications / changes have been made in the tender conditions. Last date for receipt of tenders is upto 3 PM on 14-9-23. For details see the website **https://tender.telangana.gov.in** Contact Nos.: 7337445545 / 6309339690, 7995050700 / 9704534627

DIPR R.O.No.6139-PP/CL/ADVT/1/2023-24 Dt. 03.09.2023 Sd/- VC & Managing Director

KARNATAKA STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
No.49, "Parisara Bhavana", 1st to 5th Floor, Church Street, Bengaluru - 560 001, Karnataka, INDIA.
Ph: 25581383, 25589112, 25586520 Fax: 080-25586321
E-mail: ho@kspcb.gov.in Website : https://kspcb.karnataka.gov.in

NO.PCB/206/SEO/MINES/EPH/2023-24/3015 DATE: 01.09.2023

ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEARING NOTIFICATION

M/s. Akshaya M-Sand & Stone Crusher, has proposed to undertake Quarrying of Building Stone (M- sand) project of maximum capacity 11,00,356TPAin a total land area of 16.00 Acres at Sy.No. 59 of Hosahalli Village, Tumkur Taluk &Tumkur District, Karnataka. This project proposal falls under cluster effect as per Office Memorandum issued by MoEF & CC, GoI vide No. F. No. L-11011/175/2018-IA-II (M) dated:12.12.2018.
As Per the Environment Impact Assessment Notification dated:14.09.2006 and Amendment dated:01.12.2009, the project proponent has to obtain prior Environmental Clearance from the State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority and is required to go through Environmental Public Hearing process. As per the Terms of Reference letter (ToR) No.SEIAA 87 MIN 2022 dated:04.03.2022 issued by SEIAA, Karnataka and request letter of the project proponent dated:05.12.2022 and Regional Officer, Tumkur letter dated:17.08.2023 intimating the date, the Environmental Public Hearing is being conducted by KSPCB.

The details of the project are as follows:

1. Name & Address of the proposed Quarry: M/s. Akshaya M-Sand & Stone Crusher, Hosahalli, Madhugiri Road, Tumkur- 572 101.

2. Location of the proposed Quarry Project: Sy. No. 59, Hosahalli Village, Tumkur Taluk & Tumkur District, Karnataka.

3. Details of proposed Project: Proposed to undertake Quarrying of Building Stone (M-sand) of maximum capacity 11,00,356 TPAin a total land Area of16.00 Acres.

4. Date, time and venue of Environmental Public Hearing: Date: 05.10.2023 (Thursday) Time: 10:30 AM Place: Project site, M/s. Akshaya M-Sand & Stone Crusher, Sy. No. 59, Hosahalli Village, Kora Hobli, Tumakur Taluk &Tumkur District.

5. Places of availability of project documents as per EIA Notification, which is kept open to public are: (a) Office of the Deputy Commissioner, TumkurDistrict, Tumkur. (b) Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Panchayat, Tumkur District, Tumkur. (c) District Industries Centre, Tumkur District, Tumkur (d) Tahsildar Office, Tumkur Taluk (e) Gram Panchayath Office, Hosahalli Village, Tumkur Taluk. (f) Office of the Regional Office, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, Tumkur (g) SEIAA Karnataka (Ecology and Environment), Department of Forest, Ecology and Environment, Government of Karnataka, Room No. 709, 7th Floor, 4th Gate, MS Building, Bengaluru – 560 001. (h) HELP DESK, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, Ground Floor, No.49, Parisara Bhavan, Church Street, Bengaluru – 560 001.

NOTE: Suggestions, views, comments and objections of interested bonafide residents, environmental groups and others located at project site and likely to be affected by the proposed project are invited within 30 days from the date of publication of this Notification to make oral/written/E-Mail suggestions to the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board/ Chairman, Environmental Public Hearing Committee (Deputy Commissioner, Tumkur District, Tumkur). Interested public can participate in the Public Hearing at the above place. For details please visit our Website: **kspcb.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/-
MEMBER SECRETARY

Our motto is to minimize waste generation through judicious use of natural resources

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER,
ANANDAPUR BARRAGE PROJECT, SALAPADA.
(E- mail id: cceabp@gmail.com / loabpbbsr@gmail.com)
E-procurement Notice No. CCEABP-08 of 2023-24

E-Procurement Officer	Name of the Work	Bid id No.	Tender Cost in Lakhs (Appx)	Bid Security (Online)	Cost of Bid Document (Online)	Class of Contractor	Period of Completion	Availability of tender On-line for bidding From	Availability of tender On-line for bidding To	Date of Opening of Technical Bid (Cover-1)
Chief Construction Engineer, A.B.Project, Salapada	Excavation and Cement Concrete Lining of Baitarani Right Bank Canal (BRBC) from RD 3400 m to RD 6180 m including construction of structures and service road.	ABP-ACD-01/8 of 2023-24	2832.00	28,32,000/-	10,000/-	Spl. & Super Class	12 Calendar months	05.09.23 11.30 AM	25.09.23 5.00 PM	26.09.23 11.30 AM

Further details can be seen from the Govt. website www.tendersorissa.gov.in / www.dowrodisha.gov.in
Addendum / corrigendum / cancellation if any required will be published in Govt. website only
Chief Construction Engineer,
Anandapur Barrage Project, Salapada.
A-515 OIPR-32180/11/0010/2324

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER
(Only through KPP-Portal)

BWSSB invites Tenders from registered Agencies for the following works:

Office of the Chief Engineer (North), 2nd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, KG Road, Bengaluru - 560009

Sl. No.	Division	IFT Number	Amount put to tender EMD (in Rs.)	Last Date & Time for Submission of Tender	Date & Time for Opening of Tender
1	North-1	BWSSB/EEN1/TO/891/2023-24 Date:31.08.2023	Rs.48,62,075.06 / Rs.1,14,750/-	18.09.2023 upto 3:00 PM	19.09.2023 after 4:00 PM
2		BWSSB/EEN-1/TO/890/2023-24 Date:31.08.2023	Rs.17,30,768/- / Rs.51,060/-		
3		BWSSB/EEN-1/TO/879/2023-24 Date:29.08.2023	Rs.14,01,049/- / Rs.41,340/-		
			Sd/- **Executive Engineer (North-1)**		
4	Central	BWSSB/EEC/PB/1112/2023-24 Date:01.09.2023 - Call 2	Rs.17,37,138/- / Rs.51,250/-	11.09.2023 upto 5:00 PM	12.09.2023 after 5:01 PM
			Sd/- **Executive Engineer (Central)**		
		Office of the Chief Engineer (South), 7th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, KG Road, Bengaluru - 560009			
5	South West-2	BWSSB/EESW-2/TO/PB/1141/ 2023-24, Date: 31.08.2023	1 Rs.25,32,197/- / Rs.50,700/-	13.09.2023 upto 3:00 PM	15.09.2023 after 12:00 Noon
6			2 Rs.18,02,514/- / Rs.45,100/-		
7			3 Rs.33,52,554/- / Rs.67,100/-		
			Sd/- **Executive Engineer (South West-2)**		
8	South-2	BWSSB/EE(S2)/AE/648/2023-24 Date: 31.08.2023	Rs.4,03,946/- / Rs.10,200/-	19.09.2023 upto 4:00 PM	21.09.2023 after 4:00 PM
9		BWSSB/EES2/PB/650/2023-24 Date: 31.08.2023 (Reserved for ST Category)	Rs.21,19,233/- / Rs.25,000/-		
10		BWSSB/EE(S2)/AE/644/2023-24 Date: 31.08.2023 (Reserved for SC Category)	Rs.12,70,710/- / Rs.16,000/-	25.09.2023 upto 4:00 PM	27.09.2023 after 4:00 PM
11		BWSSB/EES2/PB/642/2023-24 Date: 31.08.2023	Rs.47,63,880/- / Rs.95,300/-		
12		BWSSB/EES2/PB/646/2023-24 Date: 31.08.2023	Rs.25,43,103/- / Rs.50,900/-		
			Sd/- **Executive Engineer (South-2)**		
		Office of the Chief Engineer (Design & QA), 9th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, KG Road, Bengaluru - 560009			
13	Quality Assurance	BWSSB/EQATE/PB/507/2023-24 Date: 28.08.2023	Rs.18,65,904/- / Rs.46,700/-	11.09.2023 upto 5:30 PM	13.09.2023 at 12:00 PM
			Sd/- **Executive Engineer (Quality Assurance)**		

The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurment process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** For further details contact the undersigned office during working hours.
DIPR/CP/BCPL/1154/2023-24

Published by Nirmala Lakshman at No 19&21, Bhagwan Mahaveer Road, Bengaluru-560001 and Printed by C. Sridhar at Plot No. 13-D, Bommasandra-Jigani Link Road, KIADB Industrial Area, Bommasandra, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru-560099 on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., Chennai-600002. Editor: Suresh Nambath (Responsible for selection of news under the PRB Act).
RNI No. KARENG/1970/49945 • ISSN 0971 - 751X

CACHE

AI writers: The WGA has been on strike since May 2. AFP

How streaming companies are using the Hollywood writers' strike to move to AI

The new offer by the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers maintains silence on whether AI models will be trained on scripts or books written by writers without their consent or compensating them

Poulomi Chatterjee

After more than 100 days into the Writers Guild of America (WGA) strike, the Hollywood writers' union sat down to negotiate with top executives from Disney, Warner Bros., Netflix and Universal. The streaming companies offered a new deal with some concessions – a 13% increase in writers' wages over three years, and more data on the number of views that shows get on a quarterly basis.

However, the proposal of the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers (AMPTP) regarding Artificial Intelligence (AI) was slightly longer than the others. The proposal said that AI-generated content would not be considered literary material; writers would be paid regardless of the inclusion of any AI assistance; and that the company would disclose if it had used generative AI to write its content. But the proposal maintained silence on whether AI models will be trained on scripts written by writers without their consent or compensating them. Even as the AMPTP skirted this issue, the recent spate of AI-related job openings from these companies betrayed their true intentions.

A slew of AI jobs

Through July and August, entertainment companies – specifically six of them including Disney, Netflix, Sony and NBCUniversal –– have put out at least 26 positions related to AI, according to an NBC News search on online job listings. And the wage discrepancies are quite evident. Netflix is offering senior software engineers an annual package of between $1,00,000 and $7,00,000. Meanwhile, a machine learning scientist hired to "develop algorithms and power high quality localisation" is being offered between $1,50,000 and $7,50,000.

One job posting for a product manager on Netflix's machine learning platform, offering between $3,00,000 and $9,00,000, drew immediate backlash. According to SAG-AFTRA, the labour union for media and entertainment professionals, 87% of the guild's actors make less than $26,000 a year.

Justified pay gap?

To most on the business side of entertainment, these six-figure salaries sound like a reasonable bargain.

"What a product manager is essentially doing is keeping the company relevant to their target customers, while taking into account that any disruptive technologies can instantly invalidate their product at any given point of time. You are building a roadmap five to 10 years into the future and keep adding features and making tweaks to your product gradually," said Prateek Lonarkar, a senior product manager at Oracle.

Because the responsibility of guiding the future of a company is immense and the skills required are many, there are also fewer product managers considered eligible. "They are constantly in touch with the technical team, the marketing team, the sales team to coordinate and need to have a solid understanding of the engineering and architecture part, as well as bring business value. They have to be on their toes all time because if the product is moving in the wrong direction, it's not hard to imagine the business shutting down in a few years," he added.

Rohit Joshi, another senior product manager for Ads at Yelp, agreed. "I imagine these roles will tie to key strategic initiatives for the company. That means these will either directly tie into the ARR (Annual Recurring Revenue) or indirectly impact the ARR over the long term. So, it's fair if the employee is able to bring more than their compensation package in value to the company," he explained.

More money for fewer resources

With revenues wobbling for Netflix and Disney, generative AI seems to offer a promising fix.

"I think we will soon see the first $100 million in an ARR company with less than 100 employees," Gregory Shove, CEO of Section, posted on LinkedIn. "Companies can have AI-powered everything: business models, GTM (Go-to-Market), customer support and finance, with just 10% full-time employees and the rest as contractors and consultants."

"Get ready for companies that will blow Netflix ($2.6M), Apple ($2.4M), and Alphabet ($1.6M) away in terms of revenue per employee. OpenAI (the ChatGPT maker), probably already has," he said, referring to the revenue per employee generated by these companies.

Even if none of the job listings online clearly show that the hires are to help make content for the streaming platforms, there is enough to suggest that the companies are putting up a scaffolding of robust AI infrastructure. Some of the openings are more to meet baseline concerns – like Principal AI Operations Manager to coordinate between the IT and AI teams – and several are for R&D Imagineer Seniors in Generative AI, which is to develop generative AI experiences for Disney's resorts and parks. But some draw attention even though they are vague. For example, one of the requirements for a senior machine learning engineer simply states that applicants must be able to "develop, debug and deploy new applications of machine learning while working in tandem with Disney Studios, including Marvel, Walt Disney Animation and Pixar."

While it is unclear if Disney is replacing striking writers with professionals who build generative AI tools, it is clear that the company is axing jobs. In March, it laid off 7,000 employees. Cuts were made across various arms of the company, like ESPN, Disney Entertainment, its products division, and Disney Parks.

The human experience

For writers, the movement is a fight against more than one detractor.

"The core exercise of writing still has to do with human experiences. AI can help with summarising, brainstorming for plot outlines, organising and proofreading or even make pitch decks more presentable. Even the smallest phrase or a joke has a beginning, middle and end drawn from a human mind's collection of information and lived experiences," said P. Harish, an associate creative director at TVF.

He noted that, for years, writers seldom got their dues from organisations that are focused on profit-making. "The strike is nothing short of revolutionary and necessary, and every writer must stand by it," he said.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

American singer, songwriter and R&B superstar Beyoncé turns 42 today. Here is a quiz on Queen Bey, her artistry and music

Abhinaya. K

QUESTION 1
Beyonce participated and won a Houston talent show at the age of seven. She is said to have received a standing ovation for singing which John Lennon song?

QUESTION 2
Before being rebranded as 'Destiny's Child', the singing group made their debut on reality show *Star Search*. What was the name of the group earlier and who did they lose to in the show?

QUESTION 3
Queen Bey's set at this festival went down in the books as one of the most iconic performances. At the time, she was the first female solo artist to headline the event in 20 years. Sinead O'Connor had previously performed in 1990. Identify the festival and the year in which she performed.

QUESTION 4
The singer made an appearance at a Lip Sync Battle challenge which broke the internet. She danced to her iconic 'Run the World (Girls)'. Who were competing in the challenge?

QUESTION 5
Beyonce and Bruno Mars came together for a performance at the Super Bowl 50 halftime show which still remains unmatched. Who headlined the event?

QUESTION 6
A type of horsefly was officially named after the singer by a researcher. What is the insect's full scientific name?

Visual Question:
The singer now holds the all-time record for most Grammy wins. How many Grammy awards does she have? AP

Questions and Answers to the September 1 edition of the daily quiz: 1. This nation has the highest organ donor rate in the world. **Ans: Spain**
2. The transplantation where a family member can successfully be a half match for the patient. **Ans: Haploidentical transplant**
3. The organs that one can donate while being alive. **Ans: one kidney, one lower lobe of the lung, a part of the liver, a part of the intestine**
4. The first human organ to be transplanted successfully. **Ans: The kidney in 1954**
5. The law that governs human organ transplantation in India and the two States which are exmpt from the law. **Ans: The Transplantation of Human Organs Act, 1994; Andhra Pradesh, and the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir**
Visual: Identify this woman. **Ans: Isabelle Dinoire, the first recipient of a partial face transplant**
Early Birds: K. N. Viswanathan| Jinson Chacko| Prashant Kalbende| Ishmanjit Kaur| Ajay Kumar Sharma

KNOW YOUR ENGLISH

Keep to the straight and narrow

He pooh-poohed her suggestions for a new approach to the social media problem

S. Upendran

What is the meaning and origin of the expression 'straight and narrow'? (Atul Mishra, Noida)
The idiom has been part of the English language for several hundred years, and though it continues to be used even today, it is mostly limited to informal contexts. When an individual 'keeps to the straight and narrow', the path he chooses to take is one of honesty. He will not do anything illegal, and being someone who desires to be highly principled, he will not do anything which others would consider immoral. For those who like to have a good time, and in general enjoy life, they will not look forward to being in the company of such a person – most people would consider him to be a big bore. Such an individual, in many ways, will be the exact opposite of the modern-day politician! Those who deviate from such a path are said to 'stray from the straight and narrow'. The expression was first used with people who had undergone a complete transformation – from being a crook, to becoming a law-abiding citizen.

Ganesh is trying hard to keep to the straight and narrow. He doesn't want to be sent to prison again.

Indu's mother ensured that her daughter kept on the straight and narrow.

As to the origin of the idiom, most scholars are of the opinion that it comes from the Bible.

What is the meaning of 'pooh-pooh'? (Kamal Laddha, Bengaluru)
First, let us focus on the pronunciation of the word 'pooh'. The 'oo' sounds like the 'oo' in 'pool', 'cool' and 'fool', while the final 'h' is silent. The expression is pronounced 'puu-PUU' with the stress on the second 'pooh'. It is always used in informal contexts to show your disapproval or disgust of something. When a colleague of yours proposes an idea and you pooh-pooh it, you are summarily dismissing it. What you are suggesting is that the proposal put forward is so silly or foolish that no time should be wasted even considering it.

Revathi pooh-poohed the idea of being in love with her best friend.

The students pooh-poohed many of the proposals put forward by the VC.

Is it okay to say 'I'm home'? Shouldn't it be 'I'm at home'? (Niranjana, Chennai)
Both sentences are acceptable, but they are used in slightly different contexts. When you are on the phone, and someone asks you where you are, you can say, 'I'm at home' or simply 'Home'. The expression 'I'm home' is mostly used by native speakers of English after having entered the house. In other words, when the person returns home after having gone out. In Hollywood films, for example, it is common to hear a man returning from office say, "Honey, I'm home" or "I'm home, dear".

upendrankye@gmail.com

Word of the day

Scabrous:
rough to the touch; covered with scales or scurf; dealing with salacious or indecent material

Synonyms: scurfy, scaly, leprose

Usage: *She was reading a scabrous novel.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/scabrouspro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˈskeɪbɹəs/, /ˈska-/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

EDUCATIONPLUS

GET THE EDGE Follow us facebook.com/thehindu twitter.com/the_hindu instagram.com/the_hindu

Become an Ubuntu teacher

As Teachers' Day approaches, an educator considers how the principles of Ubuntuism can transform our classrooms

GETY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Albert P'Rayan

An anthropologist who was studying the customs and traditions of an African tribe used to spend his time with children in their village. One day, he decided to engage them in a game. He acquired some candy, placed it in a basket by a tree, and said, "You're all going to take part in a race. You should run to the tree, and the one who reaches it first can have all the candy."

When he said, "Go", the children held hands and ran together to arrive at the same time. They then shared the candy. Surprised, the anthropologist asked why they shared the candy when one could have had everything. They replied, "Ubuntu. How could any of us be happy if all the others were sad?"

Ubuntu, a term that means "humanity" is derived from the Nguni Bantu language and is often interpreted as "My existence is intertwined with others, shaping who I am" or "I am because we are." This humanist philosophy, known as Ubuntuism, underscores the interdependence of individuals. No person exists in isolation; everyone is inherently wired for connection, forming a complex web of relationships.

The principles of Ubuntu encompass compassion, trust, empathy, respect, tolerance, and cooperation. When individuals internalise this Ubuntu concept, they transcend self-centredness and identify with the collective, finding joy in shared victories over individual triumphs.

In a realm guided by Ubuntu, the dynamics of cooperation and collaboration take precedence over cut-throat competition. This philosophy has valuable applications in the realm of education. By infusing Ubuntuism into the educational framework, classrooms can transform into nurturing spaces that empower students to recognise their potential and enrich their learning experiences.

As a pedagogical tool, it fosters profound self-awareness and promotes authentic connections among students, laying the foundation for robust relationships and fruitful collaborations. Moreover, Ubuntuism serves as a responsive approach to address the diverse needs of students, embracing inclusivity as a cornerstone of education.

Education should instil the awareness that no individual exists in isolation; rather, everyone thrives through interdependence. The overarching objective of education should be to guide students through the stages of dependence, independence, and ultimately interdependence.

Unfortunately, the current state of affairs finds our education system fostering detrimental competition among students, thereby perpetuating the misconception that educational opportunities and success are reserved solely for the privileged few.

An Ubuntu teacher fosters an environment where students actively listen to one another, collaborate in teams, engage in diverse activities, and recognise their own potential through the teacher's own exemplification

Competition, when harnessed positively, serves as a catalyst for students to explore their potential, achieve remarkable accomplishments, and cultivate discipline.

Constructive competition within the classroom context sharpens the teacher's focus on individual students, facilitating comprehensive comprehension of concepts and elevated academic performance. It encourages collaborative learning, teamwork, and engagement in group activities, fostering a sense of shared journey and mutual growth. The aim of competition should be to nurture students' confidence, fostering their personal development.

However, in the context of unhealthy competition, students may resort to unscrupulous means in their quest for success, driven by an obsession to win and be at the top.

This glorification of individual achievement perpetuates a rat-race mentality, particularly evident in the relentless preparation for competitive exams from a young age. Such circumstances lead to stress, mental health challenges, and even animosity among peers.

To ensure a nurturing academic environment, it is vital to channel competition toward personal growth and shared accomplishments, rather than fostering detrimental outcomes that compromise students' mental well-being and hinder their harmonious development.

Fostering collaboration

A teacher who fosters an environment of unhealthy competition within the classroom inadvertently divides students into categories of "capable" and "less capable", which leads to the development of a "superiority complex" among the former and an "inferiority complex" among the latter group.

It is worth considering that even the term "slow learners" might have originated from the belief that "competition" is the sole path to success. Conversely, Ubuntu teachers exemplify qualities such as empathy, patience, a predisposition for collaboration, and an enduring passion for learning. They keenly listen to their students and guide them towards progress. These teachers instil students with the motivation to achieve success collectively, fostering the belief that winning as a team holds greater significance than individual achievement. Guided by this principle, they advocate cooperative and collaborative learning methodologies within the classroom. The pursuit of collaborative projects and the exchange of knowledge epitomise the noble objectives of cooperative learning.

An Ubuntu teacher fosters an environment where students actively listen to one another, collaborate in teams, engage in diverse activities, and recognise their own potential through the teacher's own exemplification. It is the duty of teachers to liberate and empower their students.

The writer is an ELT resource person and education columnist.
rayanal@yahoo.co.uk

OFF THE EDGE
Nandini Raman

Discover avenues

Uncertain about your career options? Low on self-confidence? This career counselling column may help

I am a 21-year-old Zoology graduate from Kerala University. I am going to attempt the UPSC Prelims in May 2024 and have joined coaching for this. While the classes are going well, I get scared thinking about the exam. Though I believe in my potential, I lack self-confidence and have low esteem. How can I help myself? Anu

Dear Anu,

Work with a counsellor or mentor who will motivate, encourage, and help you overcome your lack of confidence and self-esteem. Other strategies that can help are identifying and challenging your negative thoughts. Set realistic goals and break down your preparation into smaller, manageable chunks. Focus on your strengths and surround yourself with supportive people who believe in you. Practise mindfulness and deep breathing to reduce anxiety. Make sure you eat well, exercise properly and get adequate sleep.

I am a final-year law student who enjoys concentrating on academic material. But I have no idea what to do after I graduate, apart from practising in court. Nirupama

Dear Nirupama,

Take the time to explore different options after graduation, gain practical experience through internships or clerkships, and engage with professionals in various legal fields.

Seek guidance from career counsellors or professionals in the field to clarify your thoughts. Beyond traditional courtroom practice, have you considered joining a law firm to work on various legal matters, including corporate law, intellectual property, real estate, or litigation?

Explore opportunities in the government sector and with non-profits and advocacy groups. If you enjoy academic work and legal research, pursuing a career in academia is an option. Consider doing a Master's or Ph.D., working as a research associate, or teaching at law schools.

I'm a fourth-year B.Tech. Biotechnology student. I also want to be involved in wildlife conservation. What can I do for my PG? What are my options in India? Aishwarya

Dear Aishwarya,

For your postgraduate studies, there are options such as M.Sc. in Wildlife Biology, Conservation Biology, or Wildlife Science. You can also consider M.Tech/ M.Sc. in Environmental Science or Biotechnology.

In India, look up institutes such as Wildlife Institute of India (WII), National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS), Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE), and the Centre for Ecological Sciences (CES) at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) and Pondicherry University.

Sign up for fellowships and internships for hands-on experience and to network.

I have completed my M.A. Cultural Studies from Tezpur Central University with a 7.4 CGPA. I am interested in pursuing a Ph.D. in Cultural Studies in Europe. How should I proceed? Dhiraj

Dear Dhiraj,

Start researching and shortlisting potential universities and programmes that offer Ph.D. programmes in Cultural Studies or related disciplines. Contact potential supervisors for help through the application process. Highlight your academic achievements, research experience, and relevant skills. Submit strong letters of recommendation and seek guidance from mentors who can review your application. Prepare for your interview to discuss your motivations, and future goals in Cultural Studies.

Disclaimer: This column is merely a guiding voice and provides advice and suggestions on education and careers.

The writer is a practising counsellor and a trainer. Send your questions to eduplus.thehindu@gmail.com with the subject line Off the Edge

SCHOLARSHIPS

Schaeffler India Social Innovator Fellowship
Schaeffler India seeks to to recognise and reward those who are developing unique sustainable solutions that have the potential to positively impact society at scale in India.
Eligibility: Applicants should be residents of India in the 18-35 age group (as on September 1, 2023). They should be residents of India. Early-stage start-ups or NGOs with functioning prototypes can participate.
Rewards: Grants worth ₹10 lakhs, exclusive mentorship at CIIE.CO, IIM Ahmedabad and networking opportunities.
Application: Online
Deadline: September 10
www.b4s.in/edge/SIA2

Inlaks Fine Arts Awards
Inlaks Shivdasani Foundation aims to help emerging young artists develop their creative talent.
Eligibility: Open to Indian passport- holders or applicants currently residing in India born on or after January 1, 1993. Candidates must be recent graduates/ postgraduates or final-year students from a leading Indian institute for visual arts.
Reward: ₹3 lakhs per annum
Application: Via email to gladys@inlaksfoundation.org
Deadline: October 3
www.b4s.in/edge/ IFAA4

Courtesy:buddy4study.com

SIDDAGANGA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
An Autonomous Institution affiliated to Visvesvaraya Technological University, Belagavi, Approved by AICTE, New Delhi, Accredited by NAAC with 'A++' Grade, Awarded Diamond College Rating by QS I-GAUGE & ISO 9001:2015 Certified
TUMAKURU - 572 103, Karnataka, India. Estd. : 1963
Ph. : +91-816-2282696, 2282695, 2214001, 2282588, 2214000, Web : www.sit.ac.in
COLLEGE CODE : CET : E016 COMEDK : E125
Admissions : 2023-24
B.E., B.Arch., MBA & MCA
(B.E. 4yrs./8 Semesters, B.Arch 5yrs./10 Semesters
MBA 2 yrs. / 4 Semesters, MCA - 2 yrs. / 4 Semesters)
Dr. Sree Sivakumara Swamiji, Founder, Sree Siddaganga Education Society
Sree Siddalinga Swamiji, President, Sree Siddaganga Education Society
NIRF Ranking : Ranked among the top Engineering Institutions of the Country
13 B.E. Programmes | B.Arch. Programme | 4 M.Tech. Programmes | MCA & MBA Programmes | 15 Research Centres
WHY STUDY AT SIT ?
• Lush Green Campus spread over 50 acres
• Institution is accredited NAAC with A++ Grade
• Programmes accredited by National Board of Accreditation (NBA), New Delhi
• Industry focussed curriculum designed to meet global standards
• State-of-the-art infrastructure and well equipped laboratories
• Industry collaboration to provide exposure to real world challenging problems, internship and job opportunities in partnership with Continental, Samsung R&D, Autoliv, CISCO etc.
• Dedicated Career Development Department to provide guidance and support to students throughout the placement process
• Siddaganga Technology Business Incubator to support Innovation and Entrepreneurship
• Learning through 30+ active students clubs
• SIT AICTE IDEA Lab for Product Development
• Encouragement for Co-curricular activities
• Ability Enhancement Courses
• Language Enrichment Laboratory
• Co-teaching by industry experts
SIT SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS
All the students seeking admission to SIT during the academic year 2023-24 with CET rank up to 1000 (B.E.) and CET Rank up to 25 (B.Arch.) are awarded scholarships. The scholarship amount is equal to the tuition fee of Rs. 69214/- Scholarships are awarded for these students during subsequent years also, provided they secure CGPA ≥ 8.5 in the previous academic year without backlogs. Students are informed to make best use of this facility.
Dr. Sree Sivakumara Swamiji Scholarships to Socially and Economically Challenged students
CAMPUS PLACEMENTS (2023 Batch*) *Still in Progress
Companies Visited 300+ | Total Offers 1300+
Offers 10.00 LPA & above 250+ | Average CTC 9.00 LPA
Paid Internships 400+ | Offers 6.00 LPA & above 550+
HIGHEST PACKAGE 41.54 LPA
Faculty Strength : 300 Doctorates : 155
50 acres of sprawling lush green campus
Internet Facility : 1 Gbps Leased Line; Wi-Fi Campus
Alumni : 38000 (Spread across 24 Countries)
Hostels : 4 Blocks for Boys & 2 Blocks for Girls Total Capacity : 2100
Sports Facilities : Stadium with 4000 Seating Capacity, Multi Gym for Boys & Girls
SIDDAGANGA TECHNOLOGY BUSINESS INCUBATOR
• 20000 sq.ft. area • State-of-the-art facilities in 10000 sq.ft.
Inclusive Technology Business Incubator (I-TBI) Received Rs. 5.00 Crore from DST, Govt. of India | No. of Start ups 15 Nos.
Sri T.K. Nanjundappa, Secretary, S.S.E.S. | Dr. M.N. Channabasappa, Director, SIT | Dr. Shivakumaraiah, Joint Secretary & CEO, SIT | Dr. S.V. Dinesh, Principal, SIT

NITTE EDUCATION TRUST
40+ YEARS IN EDUCATION
NITTE MEENAKSHI INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
An Autonomous Institution with 'A+' grade by NAAC | Accredited by NBA (Tier-1) | Approved by AICTE/ Govt. of Karnataka | Affiliated to VTU, Belagavi
CET CODE: E105 | COMEDK CODE: E086
UNLOCK YOUR FUTURE @NMIT BANGALORE
EXPERIENCE NITTE EXPERIENCE SUCCESS
151-200 RANK BAND
NIRF RANKING 2023
ENGINEERING RANKING
PROGRAMS OFFERED
ENGINEERING - B.E. | M.TECH | MBA | MCA | Ph.D
Minor Programs with Engineering (B.E.)
Cyber Security will be offered by the Dept. of Computer Science & Engineering (for the students of ISE, Civil, ECE, Mech & Aero Branches).
Software Engineering Practices will be offered by the Dept. of Information Science & Engineering (for the students of EEE, ECE, Mech, Civil & Aero Branches).
Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning will be offered by the Dept. of AI & ML (for the students of EEE, ECE, Mech, Civil & Aero Branches).
NAAC ACCREDITED 'A+' GRADE | INNOVATION RANK 101-150 | UG PROGRAMS ACCREDITED TIER 1 | AFFILIATED TO VTU | APPROVED BY UGC | RATED DIAMOND | APPROVED BY AICTE
Post Box No. 6429, NMIT Campus, Govindapura, Yelahanka, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560064.
Contact: 8151 00 4455 | Email: enquiry@nitte.edu.in

Water level in KRS dips below 100 ft

The outflow from the reservoir is at the rate of 6,486 cusecs and this is to comply with the directives of the CWMA to release water at the rate of 5,000 cusecs per day to Tamil Nadu; gross storage in the dam is 22.47 tmcft as against the gross storage capacity of 49.45 tmcft

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

The water level in the Krishnaraja Sagar (KRS) across the river Cauvery has come down below 100 feet and was hovering at 99.54 feet on Sunday.

This is against the maximum level of 124.8 feet and the reservoir level on the same day last year was 124.7 feet.

The outflow from the reservoir was at the rate of 6,486 cusecs and this was to comply with the directives of the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) to release water at the rate of 5,000 cusecs per day to Tamil Nadu till September 12.

The rate of inflow into the reservoir as on Sunday was at the rate of 3,917 cusecs, according to Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre (KSNDMC). The gross storage in the reservoir was 22.47 tmcft against the gross storage capacity of 49.45 tmcft and the present storage is 45% of the actual capacity. The gross storage on the same day last year was 49.31 tmcft. The water level at Hemavathi in Gorur was 2,905.54 feet against the full reservoir level of 2,922 feet. The reservoir level on the same day last year was 2,921.39 feet. The gross storage in the dam was 23.54 tmcft against the gross capacity of 36.67 tmcft and the rate of inflow was at a measly rate of 774 cusecs against an outflow of 5,800 cusecs.

The rate of inflow into KRS on Sunday was at the rate of 3,917 cusecs, according to Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre.
M.A. SRIRAM

At Kabini, the reservoir level was 2,273.62 feet against the full level of 2,284 feet and the reservoir level on the same day last year was 2,282.97 feet. The gross storage in the reservoir was 13.60 tmcft against the gross capacity of 19.52 tmcft and the gross storage on the same day last year was 18.91 tmcft.

With poor rains in the catchment area of Kabini in the upstream of the dam, the rate of inflow was 855 cusecs.

Harangi is a minor dam in Kushalnagar and the gross storage capacity of the reservoir is 8.5 tmcft against which the gross storage on Saturday was 7.25 tmcft.

The water level was 2,855.15 feet against the full level of 2,858 feet.

Cauvery row: Will meet PM if situation demands, says HDD

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

Former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda has said that he will meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the Cauvery issue if the situation demands.

Speaking to presspersons at Bylahalli near Hassan on Sunday, Mr. Deve Gowda said that he was not in a position to talk about the Cauvery issue right now. "H.D. Kumaraswamy has attended the meeting with the Chief Minister on the issue, and he has already made his stand clear. If necessary, I will meet the PM on the issue," he said.

Later, speaking to the media in Hassan, Mr. Deve Gowda said that Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar has instructed his officers not to share information about the availability of water in reservoirs with anybody. "The officers are not giving information. They say they have instructions from the Minister not to disclose information," he said.

Responding to a question on the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA), Mr. Deve Gowda said that 28 parties had a meeting in Mumbai. "Have they announced their Prime Ministerial candidate? Have they appointed a convener?", he questioned.

Referring to reports of the JD(S) having an understanding with the BJP in Karnataka, Mr. Deve Gowda said that the BJP had not appointed its Leader of Opposition yet. "So far, the BJP has not appointed its leader in the House. With whom can we talk? Siddaramaiah often says both the BJP and JD(S) go together. But there is no unity among the BJP leaders themselves," he remarked.

Congress to release booklet on its achievements and Modi's 'failures'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Stating that the Congress campaign machinery has to gear up for the Lok Sabha elections, the KPCC campaign committee chairman and Industries Minister M.B. Patil on Sunday said that booklet on the contribution of Congress and failures of Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be brought out by the party soon.

"The Congress believes in the ideals of great personalities like Buddha, Basavanna, Ambedkar, Narayana Guru and Kuvempu. We will bring a booklet in simple language that can be understood by the common man on Congress' contribution and Mr. Modi's failure shortly," Mr. Patil said during a felicitation meeting of Congress's district-level office-bearers, who worked for the success of the party in the Assembly elections in which Congress registered a resounding victory.

The event was also used as a platform to prepare ground for the Lok Sabha elections.

Industries Minister M.B. Patil and other Congress leaders during a meeting in Bengaluru on Sunday.
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

> Currently, the functioning of the KPCC campaign committee is not satisfactory considering the area of work. It will be extended fully in view of the Lok Sabha elections.
> **M.B. PATIL**
> KPCC campaign committee chairman

He said: "Currently, the functioning of the KPCC campaign committee is not satisfactory considering the area of work. It will be extended fully in view of the Lok Sabha elections. A decision will be taken after consulting AICC and KPCC presidents."

The Minister said that the Congress government in just about three months of coming to power has implemented four of the five pre-poll guarantees, and the last guarantee of Yuva Nidhi will be implemented in the next couple of months.

"Every party worker has to convey this to the voters effectively and the party should win 20 seats from Karnataka on the basis of the success of the guarantees. Otherwise, what is the use of the guarantees?" he said.

Mr. Patil said: "Wherever he goes, Mr. Modi claims credit for everything. This has to be effectively countered by us."

Stating that Congress has the history of fighting for India's independence, he said: "Several leaders, including Jawaharlal Nehru, laid a strong foundation for the country to grow as a giant economic power. BJP leaders, including Mr. Modi, have to understand this. "Nearly 95% of reservoirs in India were built during Congress governments. The milk revolution, agriculture revolution, digital revolution, IIMs, IITs and AIIMS came during Congress governments and Mr. Modi, who is indulging in communal politics, did not contribute." He also listed various other contributions of the Congress.

Most Lingayat leaders will soon move out of BJP over lack of respect, says Pradeep Shettar

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Pradeep Shettar, MLC and BJP leader, has said that most Lingayat leaders will soon move out of the BJP as they are not respected enough in the party.

Mr. Shettar, who is the younger brother of the former Chief Minister Jagadish Shettar, told journalists on Sunday that some Lingayat leaders, including former Ministers Shankar Patil Munenakoppa and J.C. Madhuswamy, Member of Legislative Assembly Renukacharya and the former MLA S.I. Chikkanagoudar, are likely to quit the BJP.

He also said that he too is not getting due respect in the BJP. However, he denied suggestions that he will quit the BJP. "I will stay here and convince the top leadership about the importance of maintaining a proper relationship with the Lingayat leadership," he said.

He said that he will try to convince the senior party leaders that a higher number of ticket are given to Lingayat leaders in the Lok Sabha polls.

> I will stay in the party and convince the top leadership about the importance of maintaining a proper relationship with the Lingayat leaders.
> **PRADEEP SHETTAR,**
> Member of Legislative Council

"There is no respect for Lingayat leaders in the BJP. We all know how the BJP has treated senior Lingayat leaders like B.S. Yediyurappa and Jagadish Shettar. I am a BJP leader and MLC. But the party does not invite me to party meetings or programmes. I have not been invited for meetings in which party strategy is discussed," he said.

"What is more, I was not invited to the programme where winners of gram panchayat elections were felicitated, even though I am an MLC elected by gram panchayat members. This has not happened once or twice, but it has been happening repeatedly," he said.

"The BJP is neglecting the few Lingayat leaders who are left in the party. I do not know why there is such a trend. But I think all this is happening as the BJP is suffering from lack of proper leadership. The present leadership is systematically ignoring Lingayat leaders," he said.

He said that any party will do well in Karnataka only if it promoted Lingayat leadership at the State-level.

"The BJP lost the Assembly elections as it lost the sympathy of the Lingayat voters," he said.

Condemned

Meanwhile, the BJP has condemned Mr. Shettar for criticising it over lack of respect to Lingayat leaders in the party.

In a letter to Mr. Shettar, BJP rural district unit president Basavaraj Kundgolmath has criticised the BJP MLC for making allegations against the party leadership. This was released to the press later.

Kumaraswamy discharged from hospital

Former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy addressing the media before leaving the hospital in Bengaluru on Sunday. K. MURALI KUMAR

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy, who had suffered acute brain stroke, was discharged from hospital on Sunday.

Soon after the discharge, he thanked the doctors and said: "People should not ignore any symptoms. This is my third rebirth. I thank God and doctors for this." The JD(S) leader had been hospitalised after he complained of weakness and discomfort in the limbs on Wednesday. He was rushed to Apollo Speciality Hospital in the "golden hour" after he complained of slurring of speech and discomfort in the limbs.

INBRIEF

KSRTC bags four awards

The Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) has secured Asia's business quality awards in four categories. The award has been instituted by Vkonnect India Media and Research. According to a KSRTC release, it won awards in branding and marketing, transport and safety, employee welfare and IT initiatives categories. It will be presented at a programme in New Delhi on September 29. Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia and Union Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment Ramdas Athawale will present the awards.

Farmer dies in elephant attack near Aldur

A farmer died in an elephant attack near Aldur in Chikkamagaluru taluk on Sunday. The deceased has been identified as Kinni, 60, a resident of Durga village. He encountered the elephant while he was heading to his farm. The residents noticed his body and informed the police and forest officials. The officials reached the spot and efforts were on to drive away the herd moving around the village. Wild elephants keep roaming in several parts of Chikkamagaluru and Hassan districts. On August 31, H.H. Venkatesh, a retired Forest Department employee and expert shooter, died in an elephant attack near Alur.

CORRIDORS OF POWER

₹1.2 lakh for groceries

The Election Commission of India officials file cases whenever they find violation of the model code of conduct during election campaign. However, such cases hardly proceed further to get the accused convicted. One such rare case was booked by the Hassan district officials during the 2019 Parliament elections, and it has now taken an interesting turn.

The flying squad had registered a case after seizing ₹1.2 lakh from Suraj Revanna, MLC, and brother of then JD(S) candidate Prajwal Revanna, in Holenarsipur. The Opposition parties alleged that the candidate's brother was carrying the amount to entice voters. However, the police who conducted the investigation closed the case by filing a B-report.

The incident finally landed in the High Court of Karnataka. Mr. Prajwal was disqualified on September 1, 2023, by the court. Mr. Prajwal, the respondent, had stated that the police filed the B-report because the amount was sent by his mother Bhavani Revanna for "purchasing groceries." And the amount was ₹1.2 lakh.

High-end cars in times of drought

The Congress government led by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's nod to purchase multi-purpose vehicles (MPVs), which cost around ₹30 lakh each, is expected to receive public criticism, when the entire Karnataka is reeling under drought-like conditions. The government, which has delayed release of contractors' bills and reportedly slowed down development works citing requirement of a whopping ₹50,000 crore for implementation of five guarantees, has loosened its purse strings for purchase of vehicles for Ministers.

Mr. Siddaramaiah, who also holds the Finance portfolio, has given the green signal to purchase 33 hybrid Hycross vehicles from Toyota, which will cost the State exchequer about ₹10 crore. These cars will be acquired directly from Toyota Kirloskar Bengaluru, as per an order. The government has chosen to invoke the 4(G) exemption under the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act, which allows contracts to be awarded without floating tenders. The Opposition BJP has already hit out at the Congress government for focusing on buying high-end cars for Ministers when the State is reeling under drought conditions and farmers of Cauvery basin have launched an agitation opposing release of water to Tamil Nadu.

Sathish G.T.
Nagesh Prabhu

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

OBITUARY

Shri T.S. RAMASWAMY
(92 years)
(Ex AGM, Bhilai Steel Plant)
passed away peacefully on 2nd September 2023 at Bangalore at 5.30 PM.
Deeply Mourned by Family and Friends.
+91 98864 77844

IN MEMORY OF YOUR LOVED ONES
To dedicate a space in this section, Please contact:
Bengaluru: 98455 29981, 080 - 22071826
Hubballi: 0836 - 2338600
Mangaluru: 0824 - 2417575, from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Rate for Karnataka:
Minimum: Rs. 320/- for 2 lines.
Extra line: Rs. 160/-
B/W Display: Rs. 95/- per sq.cm;
Colour Display: Rs. 105/- per sq.cm
For Placing Advertisements Online log on to www.thehinduads.com
DONATE EYES - GIFT SIGHT

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

THIRTY SEVENTH ANNIVERSARY

P S RAMAKRISHNA RAO
Bharani & Family
Tel: 044-2434 5825, 98840 09334

Ganesha festival brings alive an old tradition in city's Pottery Town

Artisans of the area are busy giving finishing touches to the idols of varied shapes. Many traditional artisans have reinvented their craft to meet present-day demands

Yemen S.
BENGALURU

Hemanth Kumar, making Ganesha idols at Pottery town. YEMEN S.

As Ganesha Chaturthi, a festivity fondly known as *Ganesha Habba* in Karnataka, approaches, Pottery Town in Bengaluru is buzzing with activity. From mammoth 12-feet-tall, colourful idols lining the streets to small clay idols inside the homes of artisans, Pottery Town is teeming with Ganesha idols, and artisans are busy giving finishing touches to the works of art.

Pottery by Kumbara community (traditional potters) artisans in Bengaluru has been used in various cultural and religious ceremonies, besides for functional purposes over the centuries. However, with urbanization and the availability of mass-produced goods, traditional pottery-making has faced challenges. Many Kumbara artisans had to adapt to changing economic conditions. Some diversified their craft by producing more contemporary pottery to appeal to a bigger market, while many have quit their traditional vocation.

Dwindling numbers

Now, though there are close to 40 Kumbara community families at Pottery Town, the old settlement in Cantonment area in Bengaluru, only 15-20 families are actively practicing the traditional craft.

Hemanth Kumar, a sculptor and pottery instructor from Pottery Town, has been learning, practicing, and teaching pottery all his life. He, along with his aunt Anjanamma, makes different types of idols during the Ganesha Chaturthi season. While the family makes various styles of Ganesha idols -- like Mysuru Ganesha, Durbar Ganesha, Balmuri Ganesha, Kamala Ganesha, and so on -- what is special about this family's craftmanship is the Ayyanar Ganesha, also known as Kai Ganesha (hand-made Ganesha on a potter's lathe).

Not in a mould

"The Ayyanar Ganesha is made only on requests and is bought by few Tamil and Telugu communities. This idol is made of clay, by hand on the potter's wheel and is not made using a mould like the other Ganesha idols we make. They do not have fancy decorations, and only a few features are painted with white, silver, and gold paint. These idols are expensive and are sold for around ₹4,000. Besides us, there is just one more family that makes the Ayyanar Ganesha, and it is found nowhere else in Bengaluru," said Mr. Kumar.

Mr. Kumar, who pursued his education till Pre-University, decided to then take up his family's traditional craft as his profession. However, Mr. Kumar did not restrict himself to just making idols but decided to learn pottery as a course at the Regional Design and Technical Research Centre.

He now teaches pottery at various schools, corporate events and other gatherings.

Meanwhile, 63-year-old Anjanamma who taught Mr. Kumar and her children the skill of pottery, says the family does not want to force the tradition on their children.

"Pottery has been our family business for 300 years now. My great-grandfather started it and now my children, their spouses and I have been practicing this art. My husband and his great-grandparents were born and brought up in Pottery Town and have practiced it all their lives too. I have grandchildren now and we have begun teaching them the basics of pottery. During festivities like Ganesha Habba and Deepavali, they help us out. However, they are too young to decide if they want to take up our tradition as a career. They are being educated, and it is left to them to decide their choice of career," says Ms. Anjanamma.

Another artist in the locality, who does her business from her home and is also the first woman to take up the art of pottery in her family, is Geetha N.M., a sculptor and potter, and mother of two. Ms. Geetha, who learnt the art of idol making from her grandfather and father, makes hundreds of idols for Ganesha Chathurthi every year. Plain traditional Ganesha idols made of clay are once again popular, says Ms. Geetha

Clay idols in demand

"The traditional, colourless clay idol is a craft our family has been practicing for more than 100 years. As migrant potters from various states started coming in, for the last two decades, our skill was overshadowed with their idols that were made of plaster of Paris (PoP), painted and decked with stonework. However, people are now aware of the harm these idols cause to our environment and are trying to be more sustainable. Everyone is now switching to the simple idols we make, which is uplifting our skill and business," she says.

Ms. Geetha says it is important to continue learning and building your skills no matter which profession you take up.

"I am the first woman from our family to take up the business after my father and grandfather. I grew up making Ganesha Idols right from my school days. But I realised that as someone from the Kumbara community, all I knew was to make Ganesha idols. Many non-Kumbaras were learning the art form passionately and creating beautiful art pieces. I wanted to upskill myself, so I joined a pottery course at the Regional Design and Technical Research Centre, where I learned to imagine and create more sculptures, and murals. I also learned about how to acquire loans, where to sell my products, and a lot more."

"Now I make terracotta jewellery, which is also exported and sold in the USA," she says with pride.

She also makes chai or kulfi kullads (cups) which are in great demand from the food industry. She makes terracotta cutlery, toys, wall hangings, and puts up her stalls at various corporate events.

Idols and sculptures are valued in Bengaluru, say migrant artisans

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Artisans from Kolkata travel to the city to make Ganesha idols.

Migrant artisans from across the country arrive in Bengaluru during festival seasons such as Ganesha Chaturthi and Durga Puja. Many artisans from Kolkata travel to the City during the Ganesha season and stay on to make idols for the Durga festive season.

Mukul Pal, from Kolkata, belongs to a family of artisans who have been creating Durga idols in the City for more than five decades, a tradition that his grandfather started years ago. Mr. Pal and his family set up their workspace in R.T. Nagar every year. He says, "Every year we come to Bengaluru towards the end of June and begin work for Ganesh Chaturthi and then Durga Puja. This has been a tradition since my grandfather's days. I have been visiting Bengaluru during this season since I was a child."

Increasing demand

"Business runs well for us in Bengaluru. The demand for Durga idols have gotten more over the last two decades. We are almost done with the Ganesh idols now and we will soon begin on the Durga idols and get back home to Kolkata before the Durga Puja festivities start," Mr. Pal adds.

Sanjeev Kumar Mandal, who supplies his artwork to idol dealers near Minerva Circle, is another sculptor and idol decorator from Kolkata, who also believes that Bengaluru yields better income for artisans than their hometowns.

"Our family knows the A-to-Z of idol making, from creating the basic models to painting it, and even decorating it, We do it all from scratch. I have been trained in idol making since I was a child and I have been doing this business in Bengaluru for the last 12 years," he says.

"Throughout the year I am busy making Ganesha idols, and once the festivity is over, I head back home. While I'm here working on the Ganesha idols my family begins work on the Durga idols back home in Kolkata. In Kolkata our business runs well only during Durga Puja," Mr. Mandal adds.

Not conventional idol-makers, but in love with the art

Arun Kumar, an artist from Pottery Town, says that it was a challenge being an artist who was not from the Kumbara community

Yemen S.
BENGALURU

While Bengaluru boasts of a rich tradition of artisans carrying forward their ancestral artistic heritage, it also has individuals from diverse backgrounds who passionately pursue these crafts. Pottery Town in Bengaluru also has artisans like Sandeep S. and Arun Kumar, who are not from the Kumbara community of traditional potters but have honed their skill in pottery.

Mr. Sandeep was a passionate artist since childhood and wanted to pursue his career in it. During his undergraduate course at Ken School of Art, he discovered his love for clay work, pottery, and sculpting. Mr. Sandeep went on to do his Masters in Bengaluru University. He is now a practicing artiste and teaches the art form at various schools and colleges.

On being asked if he faces challenges as a contemporary sculptor among a community of Kumbara artisans, Mr. Sandeep says the only challenge he has faced is to find a studio space for his work. He says, "I do not practice the traditional style or create the same work the Kumbara community does. My style is more contemporary and creative. I make murals and sculptures in my own style. I do not compete with the traditional artists, and they do not compete with me. They don't make the murals I make, and I do not make the Ganesha idols and other traditional clay work they do. We believe that these are two different art forms and have learnt to live in the same community without any differences."

File photo of Ganesha idols being sold on R.V. road on the eve of Ganesha festival.

On the other hand, Mr. Arun Kumar, an artist who was born and brought up in Pottery Town, says that it was a challenge growing up as an artist who was not from the Kumbara community. "I started pottery work in 2006 when I was in school, It was something that I had to force myself into as my family was not financially stable, and I needed a part-time job to support them. I worked with the Kumbara community, helped them with small chores, and slowly started learning the art form. As I grew up, I realised that I was passionate about pottery and sculpting and decided to make a career out of it. I began making my own Ganesha idols and lamps during the festive season," he said.

Not being part of the community did pose some problems. "As I grew older it started getting harder. We have a community kiln where we fire all our artwork. I was not allowed to use the kiln since I was not a member, I did not hold an authorised card. However, I took it up as a challenge, looked up schemes and courses provided by the government, and trained myself in the art form. Now I have an authorised card and I am allowed to use the community kiln. Things are better, but as an outsider, there is some kind of challenge always," Mr Kumar added.

Mr. Kumar, like many potters and sculptors, also teaches pottery and sculpting in schools and colleges. He regularly conducts workshops, sells clay utensils, and also makes contemporary murals.

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO SEPTEMBER 4, 1973

Disposal of Palaces: Veerendra Patil's charge

Hubli, Sept. 3: Mr. Veerendra Patil, MP, and President of the MPCC (O) alleged here to-day that both the Central and Mysore Governments were conspiring to favour the ex ruler of Mysore in removing the inalienability in the merger agreement to enable the ex-ruler to dispose of palaces.

Talking to pressmen here to-day, Mr. Patil, former Chief Minister, said the Central Government had from the beginning taken a partial attitude in favour of the ex-ruler. When he was Chief Minister, he had received a reference from the Central Government to give his considered views with regard to the removal of the inalienability clause. After examining the entire case and consulting the Law Department as well as the Advocate General, the State Government vehemently opposed the removal of the clause.

No conflict between CM and PCC Chief in Mysore

Bangalore, Sept. 3: Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, the Congress President, to-day denied that there had been any conflict between the Chief Minister, Mr. D. Devaraj Urs, and the Mysore President Congress President, Mr. K.H. Ranganath, on any basic issue.

The Congress President, who passed through Bangalore on his way from Tirupati to New Delhi told pressmen he had held separate discussions with both of them during his brief stay here. Neither of them had spoken of any conflict during these talks.

Anant Nag reminisces his 50-year journey in cinema

Anant Nag, known for carrying off any role with élan, walks down the memory lane to talk about his long journey in cinema

Shilpa Anandraj

When he entered the world of film, Anant Nag was lanky and handsome. Whether he played the mean, selfish son of a landlord in Shyam Benegal's *Ankur*, the conniving brother in *Kalyug*, or the romantic pilot in Puttanna Kanagal's *Bayalu Daari*, he portrayed every role with élan and intensity. He could evoke sympathy as a lovelorn youngster as well as hatred for his negative roles. He was capable of tickling our funny bone with his comedy turns in films such as the *Ganeshana Maduve* series.

Though he was a newcomer, the audience saw him sharing the screen space with legendary actors of his time like the late actor Kalpana and Julie Lakshmi. If his commercial films ran houseful across Karnataka, he also worked in parallel cinema in Kannada (*Minchina Ota, Accident, Nodi Swamy Naavu Iradu Heega)* and Hindi (*Nishant)*.

He was part of the iconic television series, *Malgudi Days*, directed by his late brother Shankar. The two brothers were the main propagators of Kannada theatre in Bengaluru in the '70s and '80s. They even founded the amateur theatre group – Sanket. Despite his success in cinema, Anant always made time for theatre.

From his debut in PV Nanjaraja Urs' Kannada film *Sankalpa* to *KGF Chapter 1*, Anant has been there and done that. He has worked with legends and budding directors.

This year, he celebrates 50 years in the film industry. Even today, he is a busy man. The actor is being felicitated by fans and organisations for the remarkable milestone.

Amidst this hectic schedule, Anant, speaks to *The Hindu* over a call about cinema and what it means to him starting at the very beginning.

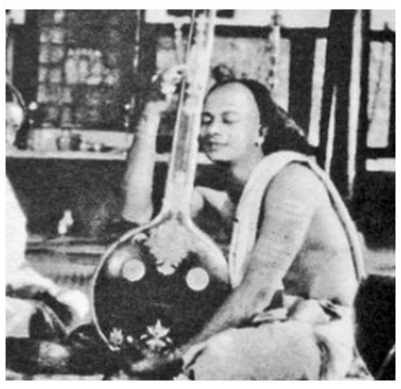
One way ticket

"I grew up in two ashrams – Uttara Karnataka and then in Dakshina Karnataka. I led a sheltered life and was adept at the life in the ashrams. Academically, I was in the top five ranks always." Things changed drastically for Anant when the family moved to Mumbai. "School was in English medium. I could not cope and felt lost. Suddenly, I was at the bottom of the class. I chose arts, I was unsuccessful, tried literature, failed there too." Anant tried to join the Army, but was rejected as he was underweight. "I lost interest in academics, and was thinking of going back to the ashram."

That was when someone suggested acting. "Those days, failures were told by teachers and family to become actors. It was considered a profession for those who could do nothing else. I got a break in theatre and felt destiny had ushered me on stage."

Though terrified initially, Anant says, he dived into the world of rehearsals and characters. "I started discovering myself, regained my lost confidence. Theatre helped me find myself and in five years I had acted in 50 plays." Anant started his stage journey with Konkani theatre. "I enjoyed acting because though my personal life was miserable, I could be anyone on stage. Gradually, film offers started pouring in."

Cinema, Anant says, is like going on a road with a one-way ticket. "Once you get into this field, cinema consumes you. There is no way you can return. It is like riding a tiger all the time. Try getting off its back, and you can be attacked."



Still going strong Anant Nag in stills (left to right) *Hamsa Geethe, Godi Banna Saadarana Maikattu, Sa.Hi.Pra.Shaale, Kasaragodu and Kanneshwara Rama and* Special Arrangement

Second wind

About him sustaining in the industry for 50 years, the actor says, "It was not my efforts alone, but the love the audience gave me. They made my films a success. Equal credit goes to the directors, producers, and most importantly, the writers. They wrote specific roles for me and I am grateful to each one of them."

After a while, Anant started getting bored with his roles. "By the time I was 40, I was questioning myself – what was I doing? Why was I repeating the success formula over and over again? Art cinema, offered me scope for experimentation, but had limited reach those days. Even the remuneration was nominal. Ultimately, cinema is meant for entertainment. People come to watch your film, not to get patronised, but to get entertained."

"A film you think nothing about, may become a blockbuster and one that you pinned all your hopes on, may go unnoticed. Also, when you are an actor, sometimes you are left with no choice, but to do the role you are offered as that is what people wish to see you as. It is also a question of money for the producer. So, in the end the numbers do count."

That is when Anant started exploring comedy. His *Ganeshana Maduve* series with Vinaya Prasad is still remembered for the laughs they provide. "I also did a lot of dark comedy in films such as *Udbhava, Yaarigu Helbedi* where I explored negative characters with shades of humour."

Anant then took a break to venture into politics. After a short stint, he decided to return to films. "I was now in my 50s and decided to explore character roles."

Despite this switch, the films that he was a part of went on to become major hits including *Mungaru Male, Godi Banna Sadharana Maikattu, Kavaludaari* and *KGF Chapter 1*. Because he remains a sought-after actor in his 70s, he is often compared to Amitabh Bachchan. This comparison, the actor says, is unfair on Amitabh Bachchan. "He is a legend. He puts in the same passion for a three-hour film or a 15-second advertisement, which I am incapable of. He is a terrific brand and is from the Hindi film industry, which has a larger reach. However, comparing me to him is the people's verdict, and I humbly accept this honour."

Listen to Malgudi Days in Kannada

Who can forget the famous television series, *Malgudi Days*? Based on the RK Narayan's writings and adapted for screen by the late Shankar Nag, the series, gave the viewers a glimpse of a gentler way of life that today is just a memory. *Malgudi Days*, originally written in English, and translated into Kannada by H Ramachandra Swami as *Malgudi Dinagalu*, is now available as an audio-book.

Kannada film and television actor, Aniruddha Jatkar, has narrated the audio-book. "I grew up watching the series and imagined myself as each of the characters. When Storytel approached me to narrate the audio-book, my joy knew no bounds."

Aniruddha, who is the son-in-law of the late Kannada actor, Vishnuvardhan, says, the audio-book will introduce a new generation of readers to the writings of RK Narayan. "Though fictional, Malgudi has realistic characters and situations in it. The audio-book will only help bring people closer to the stories of their roots and culture."

The narrator Actor aniruddha lends his voice. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

A haunting love story

FILM REVIEW

Vivek MV

Meticulous execution Rakshit Shetty and Rukmini Vasanth in stills from *Sapta Sagaradaache Ello.* PARAMVAH STUDIOS

In *Sapta Sagaradaache Ello* (Somewhere Beyond the Seven Seas), director Hemanth M Rao subverts the traditional idea of a love story. He plunges straight into the relationship drama without the conventional meet-cute or a romantic number.

It is a meticulous paper-to-screen execution as Hemanth readies us for a moody love story from the very first scene. You see an argument that hints at the soon-to-be doomed fate of Manu (Rakshit Shetty) and Priya (Rukmini Vasanth), a middle-class couple with many dreams, big and small.

Priya is an aspiring singer, who is mesmerised by the sea and wishes for a simple life with Manu. Having moved to Bengaluru from her coastal hometown, she sees the sea in Manu and would not mind spending her life singing for him. Manu's dreams, however, lean toward the materialistic. A driver to business tycoon Shankar Gowda (Avinash), Manu looks at high-rise buildings and luxury cars with longing and hopes to own them one day.

Set in 2010, *Sapta Sagaradaache Ello* flows smoothly with Hemanth and Gundu Shetty's deft writing. It does not romanticise the struggles of the middle-class. Many small moments of joy keep you immersed in Manu and Priya's world until fate pulls the couple apart.

As hinted in the trailer, a misstep from Manu lands him in jail and that is when *Sapta Sagaradaache Ello* becomes something more than a love story. The prison portions are served with philosophical undertones as Manu fights guilt and yearns to reunite with Priya. In the film, the jail is a metaphor for rebirth among the culprits. The shift in focus naturally unsettles our impression of the film.

The film springs back to life when Hemanth refocuses his attention on the heartbreakingly brilliant chemistry of the leads. We witness the love story strengthen in, of all places, the prison. Separated by the fence, Manu and Priya exchange glances, smiles, gentle words and avoid looking at each other when engulfed in sadness.

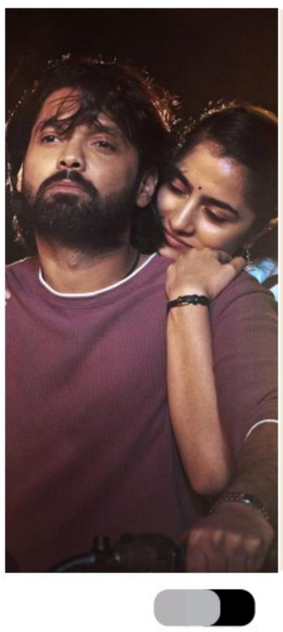
Hemanth succeeds in offering a poetic experience to the audience, thanks to cinematographer Advaitha Gurumurthy's visual treatment and Charan Raj's haunting score. Apart from the clever use of frames, Advaitha balances seamless visuals with close-up shots of Rukmini and Rakshit that convey a strong sense of despair.

Charan aids Advaitha in establishing the myriad mood changes of the film. The placement of the rap song 'Horaata' avoids melodrama in a terrific fashion while Charan's superb orchestral range helps us forgive the film's periodic lulls and Hemanth's indulgence. Scene after scene, Charan's score provokes sadness, doing full justice to the film's poignant nature. The background score hits a crescendo in the closing portions, which are gripping, an adjective hardly used to describe a love story.

Rukmini, as Priya, does not cry until she loses the battle of love. That said, Rukmini seems to have perfected the art of expressing anguish. She superbly internalises the resolve of a woman who aims to get her lover out of danger. Priya's endless wait for a happy reunion with Manu is one of the most moving portrayals in a long time from a female performer on Kannada screen. Rakshit's vulnerability will punch you in the gut.

Sapta Sagaradaache Ello is an epic love story offering an immersive experience. Wait for October 20 ('Side B') to know the full story of Manu and Priya.

Sapta Sagaradaache Ello (Side A) is currently running in theatres



Sapta Sagaradaache Ello (Side A) (Kannada)

Director: Hemanth M Rao
Cast: Rakshit Shetty, Rukmini Vasanth, Achyuth Kumar, Avinash
Runtime: 142 minutes
Storyline: Manu and Priya, a middle class couple, have big dreams. However, circumstances land Manu in jail, putting the relationship in jeopardy.

Apples, a welcome presence in Bengaluru

MARIANNE DE NAZARETH

In full bloom Flowers and fruits. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

There are apples in Bengaluru. A number of young trees are flowering and fruiting on a farm in Hoskote. Apples journey from Himachal Pradesh to Hoskote is an interesting one. Apples were introduced in Himachal Pradesh somewhere in the 20th century, by an American named Samuel Stokes, and created employment opportunities for many Indian farmers on his farms. He grew Shimla apples, which are big, crunchy red apples with cream-coloured flesh.

Dr Jagdish, Joint Director of Horticulture, Lalbagh, reveals that Gustav Hermann Krumbiegel, a German botanist and landscaper, best known for his work in the gardens of Lal Bagh, imported Asian and Australian apple cultivars as an experiment. "He observed their performance in Bangalore city areas. He initially came to work for the Maharaja of Baroda but in 1907 he moved to work for Krishnaraja Wodeyar, the ruler of Mysore and was in charge of Lal Bagh as an economic botanist and superintendent."

Bengaluru, Jagdish says, was a small city then and so for two decades Krumbiegel formed 35 to 40 orchards, which grew apples successfully. "There are photos of apples growing even by the roadside," reveals Jagdish. "However with the growth of the city and the increase in temperature, the apples vanished. Now a few progressive farmers are trying to grow them again and have been successful." Two trees planted in Lalbagh have given a few fruit of a medium colour this year, Jagdish says.

"I was sent around 20 bare root graft, dormant apple saplings 15 months ago by a friend from Jammu and Kashmir," says Narsimappa A, a farmer in Kuruballahalli, Hoskote Taluk. " When my sons and I were digging the pits to plant the grafts we wondered if they would grow. They looked like sticks with roots, so I put a lot of compost into the pits and Hoskote has naturally red, fertile soil. In 15 months as you can see the trees began to flower and now are fruiting. The varieties names are: HRMN99, Doesset Golden and Anna."

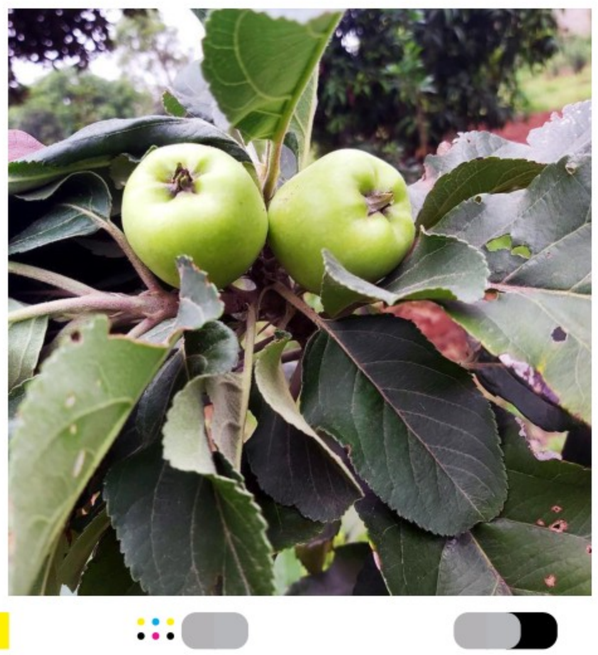
According to him, the reason for the speedy growth of apple saplings in the tropical region is the absence of the plant's dormant phase – a natural phenomenon which helps it resist extreme cold. He believes that the apple trees can be a huge success in Bangalore, where the minimum temperature never falls to unbearable levels and the summer is also not harsh.

"The growing conditions for apple trees are entirely different from those in their native regions, so the plants behave differently," Narsimappa says. "Thanks to the rapid growth, the flowering in the trees begins in the second year whereas it takes five to six years in the hills."

The flowering is continuous throughout the second year; and the branches have a tendency of growing straight up. He hopes State research centres can help with managing any new pests.

Dr Yellappa Reddy former Secretary, Department of Ecology and Environment, Government of Karnataka says, "Bangalore's weather and soil are definitely conducive to growing apples and have been part of the city's historical past when the weather was much cooler. These are not different from the varieties growing in the north but certain cultivars are more hardy."

Whether this will be a one off with the trees fruiting for one season, or will they become as common as sapotas and mangoes, only time will tell.



INBRIEF

IMD says vigorous monsoon may cause heavy rain in A.P.

Several parts of Andhra Pradesh are likely to receive heavy to very heavy rainfall during the the next four days up to September 7 due to vigorous southwest monsoon activity over the coastal Andhra Pradesh and Rayalaseema regions. The India Meteorological Department (IMD), Amaravati, in a release on Sunday, said that a low pressure area was likely to form over the northwest and adjoining west-central Bay of Bengal during the next 48 hours.

Five killed in road accident in Andhra Pradesh's Bapatla

Five passengers, including four women, died and two others suffered injuries in a road accident on the National Highway at Santamaguluru village in Bapatla district in Andhra Pradesh, on Sunday. The accident occurred when a lorry hit an autorikshaw, in which the victims were travelling, near the Government High School at Santamaguluru. The victims were all working in a catering unit in Guntur, the police said, adding that efforts were on to identify the victims.

KCR favours 'one nation, one election', says Revanth

Telangana Congress president A. Revanth Reddy said that Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao was in favour of the 'one-nation, one-election' concept and his silence even after the Centre made its intentions clear was an indication of his continuous support to PM Narendra Modi. At a press conference in Hyderabad on Sunday, Mr. Reddy also released a letter submitted by the CM earlier, revealing that the TRS (now BRS) was in favour of simultaneous elections to Parliament.

High-decibel campaigning culminates in Puthuppally

Main parties take out roadshows and rallies on Sunday; the campaigning will go on in silent mode today with the candidates embarking on a last-minute attempt for voters' support in byelection

Hiran Unnikrishnan
KOTTAYAM

The highly charged final phase of electioneering for the Puthuppally byelection in Kerala, scheduled for Tuesday, culminated on Sunday evening with the major contenders campaigning in full blast.

With just one day left for polling, the campaigning will go on in silent mode on Monday with the candidates embarking on a last-minute bid for voters' support. Sunday saw the parties taking out roadshows and rallies.

The celebrations reached a peak when the candidates of major coalitions arrived at the spot to rousing receptions.

Tight match: Public campaigning for Puthupally bypoll ending in a full blast at Pampady on Sunday. VISHNU PRATHAP

While LDF candidate Jaick C. Thomas, NDA candidate G. Lijin Lal, and AAP candidate Luke Thomas joined the show of strength at Pampady, UDF candidate Chandy Oommen continued with canvassing at Manarcaud.

This time, every coalition in the fray at Puthuppally had its tallest leaders dropping in and raising the poll heat. However, much of the hard grind for seats was left in the hands of the grassroots workers. While the LDF focussed primarily on the development imbalances in the Assembly segment represented by Mr. Chandy for 53 years, the UDF sought to counter it by highlighting the scams that have engulfed the State government. The NDA, meanwhile, set its campaign primarily on the welfare programmes implemented by the Centre.

Alongside the political factors, the stance of the dominant Christian factions, which together constitute about 45% of the electorate here, too will have a considerable impact on the final outcome.

A.P. students stare at prospect of losing 'local quota' in educational institutions

A.D. Rangarajan
TIRUPATI

The teaching fraternity and the student community in Andhra Pradesh fears the prospect of losing 'local quota' in the educational institutions.

Their fear stems from the fact that the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, which had come into force in May 2014, is valid only for 10 years. This means that the rules and regulations formulated prior to the bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh will not hold good after May 2024.

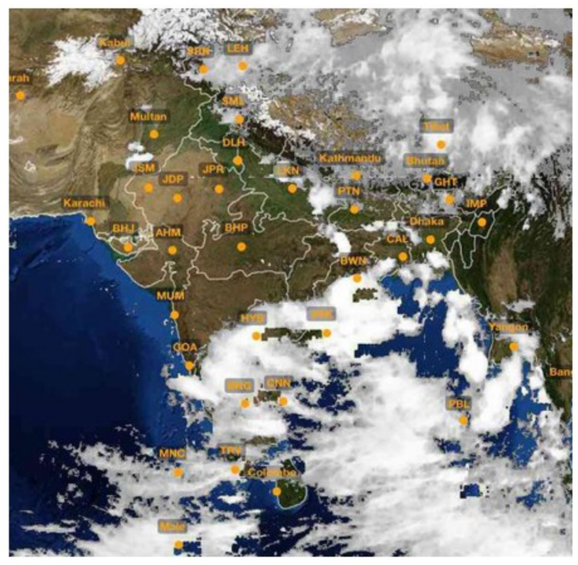
Article 371 D, which had been incorporated as the 32nd amendment to the Constitution in 1973, comes into picture here. It was promulgated to safeguard the rights of local students in education and employment, especially in Andhra Pradesh, as both the Andhra and Telangana regions had witnessed a spate of agitations in the early 1970s.

"When combined Andhra Pradesh is no longer a reality, and which will officially become a thing of the past by May 2024, the fate of the students from the backward regions such as Rayalaseema and North Andhra hangs in the balance," says M. Purushotham Reddy, convener of the Rayalaseema Intellectual Forum. Earlier, Telangana was known as Osmania University region, and the districts from Srikakulam to Prakasam as Andhra University region, while the Rayalaseema and Nellore districts were tagged under the Sri Venkateswara University region, with 85% of seats in the educational institutions reserved for the local students.

"With no such constitutional protective cover in the future, the local students of all the regions stand to lose," he says. The government is expected to take legal help and protect the students' interests of before 2024, he says.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Monday: Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Odisha, Coastal Andhra Pradesh and Yanam, Telangana, Chhattisgarh, Gangetic West Bengal, Konkan and Goa, Rayalaseema, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal, Kerala and Mahe, North Interior Karnataka.

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	34.6	26.5	Kozhikode	—	33.8	26.9
Ahmedabad	—	36.4	26.8	Kurnool	13.0	35.9	24.0
Aizawl	0.2	32.5	21.0	Lucknow	—	36.8	26.9
Allahabad	—	—	28.0	Madurai	45.0	36.0	23.8
Bengaluru	1.8	29.6	21.4	Mangaluru	—	31.2	24.6
Bhopal	—	34.4	24.1	Mumbai	35.0	28.0	24.3
Bhubaneswar	47.0	35.1	24.2	Mysuru	—	33.0	23.6
Chandigarh	—	35.2	26.3	New Delhi	—	36.5	26.1
Chennai	0.8	35.6	26.3	Patna	18.0	35.4	25.0
Coimbatore	-0.1	34.2	24.0	Port Blair	89.0	28.3	23.6
Dehradun	—	34.2	25.2	Puducherry	1.2	36.0	25.4
Gangtok	14.2	31.8	19.6	Pune	17.6	25.6	21.8
Goa	—	32.6	24.7	Raipur	13.0	35.2	25.2
Guwahati	—	35.0	26.5	Ranchi	2.0	32.6	24.4
Hubballi	—	29.0	23.0	Shillong	—	27.3	17.9
Hyderabad	29.0	34.6	22.5	Shimla	—	23.2	19.9
Imphal	—	31.0	21.6	Srinagar	1.0	32.4	17.6
Jaipur	—	36.9	26.3	Thiruvananthapuram	12.0	30.2	24.5
Kochi	20.0	28.6	24.4	Tiruchi	3.0	36.1	24.6
Kohima	—	26.8	18.6	Vijayawada	59.0	34.4	25.2
Kolkata	22.0	34.3	27.0	Visakhapatnam	23.0	33.0	25.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.31	..—	160	17	85	
Bengaluru	...7	.31	.70	84	...106	
Chennai	...4	.13	.25	40	50	
Delhi	...3	..32	195	79	...270	
Hyderabad	...9	1	.24	...107	...103	
Kolkata	...7	.31	.24	67	76	
Lucknow	.25	..17	...6	79	...121	
Mumbai	.15	..38	.15	...203	...160	
Pune	..—	.31	.56	...112	...101	
Visakhapatnam	..—	..—	..—	.....—	.....—	.....—

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Anand Vihar, Delhi recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 270 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Ballygunge, Kolkata recorded a healthy AQI score of 76.

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Dearth of facilities to keep captured tigers puts wildlife managers in a fix

E.M. Manoj
KALPETTA

With big cats on the prowl in human habitats, Forest Department officials are frequently called upon to capture the animals. But the dearth of facilities to keep the captured big cats often puts wildlife managers in Wayanad in a fix.

Last year, the Forest Department had set up an animal hospice and a palliative care unit for big cats in the Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary, home to more than half the number of tigers in the State.

The project was envisaged at treating aged, injured or diseased animals after capturing them from the wild. They would either be rehabilitated in zoos or released into the wild after treatment, depending on the health condition of the animal.

Trap in place: Forest officials setting up a cage on a coffee plantation in Wayanad to capture a tiger. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The unit has the capacity to accommodate four animals at a time, but all the slots are filled with captured tigers, according to sanctuary sources.

Earlier, wounded and aged captured tigers from the forest in the district used to be shifted to zoos, but the zoo authorities were not willing to receive them due to dearth of space, the sources added.

On Friday, the Forest Department set up two cages to capture two tigers on the prowl at Eralottu Kunnu under the sanctuary and Panavally in the North Wayanad Forest Division in the district after residents raised protests.

Though the department had submitted a proposal to set up one more palliative care unit for captured big cats, it was yet to be approved, said the sources.

Often, wounded or aged tigers enter human habitats in search of easy prey. If a tiger was relocated to a suitable environment in the wild after its capture, it would either survive or die naturally, said N. Badusha, president, Wayanad Prakruthi Samrakshana Samithi. But, if the animal was relocated to the territory of another big cat, it would either be killed or further injured in a territorial fight and become a problematic tiger. Such an animal would enterentered human habitats again for easy prey and became a threat to the public, he added. A similar incident occurred in Wayanad in 2012 and finally, the captured tiger was shot dead, he said. Hence, it was better to set up a wildlife orphanage for them in degraded forest areas in the district, known for recurring man-animal conflicts, said Mr. Badusha.

'Encroachment of waterbodies high in rural TS'

B. Chandrashekhar
HYDERABAD

Contrary to the general perception that encroachment of waterbodies is high in urban areas, a census conducted by the Ministry of Jal Shakti (MoJS) from 2017-19 reveals that over 96% of encroachments have taken place in rural Telangana.

The census put the total water bodies in Telangana at 64,055 including ponds (27,003), tanks (16,292), lakes (289), reservoirs (111), percolation tanks or check dams (19,239), and others (1,121). The study has found that 3,032 waterbodies have been encroached in the State.

Udhayanidhi's remarks on *Sanatana Dharma* spark row

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI/NEW DELHI

Tamil Nadu Sports Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin's comments calling for the "eradication of *Sanatana Dharma*", has triggered a political row.

"Just like dengue, mosquitoes, malaria, or coronavirus need to be eradicated, we have to eradicate *Sanatana*," he had said on Saturday, stressing that a few things could not be opposed but had to be eradicated. He was speaking at a conference organised by the Tamil Nadu Progressive Writers Artists Association in Chennai.

Reacting sharply, Union Home Minister Amit Shah

Udhayanidhi Stalin

on Sunday accused the DMK and its ally, the Congress, of "insulting *Sanatana Dharma*" for vote bank politics while launching the BJP's 'Parivartan Yatra' at Dungrpur in election-bound Rajastahan.

Citing Congress MP Karti P. Chidambaram's defence of Mr. Udhayanidhi, he said these were calls by them for the abolition of *Sanatana Dharma*. "These people have talked about *Sanatana Dharma* for vote bank appeasement. They have insulted (*Sanatana Dharma*)," he said.

Dubbing the Opposition INDIA bloc as "*ghamandiya gathbandhan*" (haughty alliance), Mr. Shah said it could go to any extent for vote-bank politics but the more they talked against *Sanatana Dharma*, the less they would be visible.

"They say that if Modi wins, *Sanatana* rule will come. *Sanatana* is ruling the hearts of the people," he said.

Meanwhile, responding to BJP IT cell chief Amit Malviya's claim that he had called for "genocide of 80% of India's population", Mr. Udhayanidhi clarified that he never called for a genocide of those following *Sanatana Dharma*. In a post on X, he said: "*Sanatana Dharma* is a principle that divides people in the name of caste and religion. Uprooting it is upholding humanity and human equality. I stand firmly by every word I have spoken. I spoke on behalf of the oppressed and marginalised who suffer due to *Sanatana Dharma*." He said he was ready to present the writings of Periyar E.V. Ramasamy and B.R. Ambedkar, who he said conducted in-depth research on Sanatana Dharma and its negative impact.

Kerala's GST revenues up by 13% in August

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Continuing the growth trend in Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenues, Kerala registered 13% growth in GST collection in August this year over August 2022.

According to data released by the Union Finance Ministry, collection for August 2023 stood at ₹2,306 crore. It was ₹2,036 crore in August 2022.

The collection for a given month pertains to the consumption of goods and services in the previous one. The State government had completed the revamp of the State GST department this year.

Uniting front

Opposition to the BJP alone is not enough to form a national alternative

The third meeting of parties under the banner INDIA – the Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance – in Mumbai last week resolved to contest the upcoming Lok Sabha election together "as far as possible". More than two dozen parties announced that seat-sharing arrangements in different States will be initiated immediately and concluded at the earliest in "a collaborative spirit of give and take". Participants did not elect a convener or unveil a logo but announced five committees to improve coordination among them on various aspects. A 14-member coordination committee will double up as an election strategy committee, while the four other committees will coordinate campaign, social media, media and research. The INDIA bloc now plans to bring about a vision document which is likely to be released on October 2, Gandhi's birth anniversary. Plans are afoot for five rallies in different parts of the country – Patna, Nagpur, Delhi, Chennai and Guwahati, and a regular meeting of the leaders. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has emerged as the centre of the unity efforts as he bonded with senior leaders of regional parties even at the cost of his own party's local calculations. Mr. Gandhi is reportedly planning a second leg of the Bharat Jodo Yatra, this one along a horizontal route through the strongholds of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

It is clear that these parties find common ground against the BJP, but that alone will not make INDIA a national alternative to the ruling party. Most INDIA parties have their interests defined by the local particularities of their respective regions. Assembly by-elections in West Bengal and Kerala this week are instructive. In West Bengal, the Congress and the Left are together in taking on the Trinamool Congress (TMC), while in Kerala, the Congress and the Left are face to face. The willingness of these parties to have a national plan in the larger interests of society might be appealing to some people, but to some others it could appear as hypocrisy. Optics apart, the coming together of parties will not necessarily lead to an aggregation of their votes, as some experiments of coalition politics have demonstrated. The differences among the parties on programmes and slogans are unsurprising, but the real challenge lies in winning the confidence of the people. INDIA will have to frame issues well and campaign effectively to emerge viable. The BJP is a dynamic and flexible party, despite its alleged ideological tenacity. It is responding to the INDIA challenge through political and administrative moves. Being opposed to the BJP cannot be the sole defining feature of INDIA.

Onward, sunward

Aditya-L1 gives India's space programme one more boundary to push

Roughly a week after the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) soft-landed a robotic lander and rover on the moon's south polar region, it launched India's first space mission dedicated to studying the sun, in the form of a spacecraft named Aditya-L1. Barely half a day after the launch, ISRO announced that its lunar rover had completed the surface studies it had planned and that it had been "parked" ahead of the two-week-long lunar night. This vignette illustrates a certain maturity on the part of the Indian space programme: it enters a phase where its growth from strength to strength becomes indistinguishable from international leadership in space exploration, even as it carries forward an old tradition of studying the sun, exemplified by the Kodaikanal Solar Observatory. Aditya-L1 will study the sun in multiple wavelengths with its suite of seven instruments: four remote-sensing and three *in situ* (i.e., by directly sampling a particular volume of space). Even though it is the star closest to the earth and has been and continues to be observed by a panoply of telescopes, the sun still holds many secrets. Some of them are simply waiting to be discovered, although that is easier said than done given the brutality of the star's influence on its immediate surroundings. One example is the particulars of the solar wind, a stream of charged particles that stream out from the sun into space. Considering the solar wind affects space weather and in turn the digital components of spacecraft, Aditya-L1's findings could inform future space missions as well. Others are mysteries – bundles of facts not yet fully explained by scientific theories. The archetypal example is the coronal heating problem: why the uppermost layer of the sun's atmosphere is a thousand times hotter than the sun's surface.

In the next four or so months, Aditya-L1 will travel to the L1 Lagrange point, a point 1.5 million kilometres from the earth, where the spacecraft will have an unobstructed view of the star while it stays in a halo orbit around the point. To deepen its relevance, Aditya-L1 will also have to record and transmit data to earth as quickly as possible, where the data downlink and analysis pipeline will have to operate with similar haste, so that scientists can piece together a concurrent image of the sun. ISRO has also demonstrated its ability to handle complex navigational tasks in interplanetary missions (including the lunar space programme, Chandrayaan) with help from foreign space agencies, and the attendant skills will be brought to bear on Aditya-L1 as well. Taken together, while Aditya-L1 seems relatively simple given ISRO's recent achievements, it gives the Indian space programme and the national solar physics community one more boundary to push.

Court's order and the ASI survey are flawed

Dushyant Dave

is a Senior Advocate in the Supreme Court of India

In its judgment dated November 9, 2019, a Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court of India, comprising the Chief Justice of India (CJI), Ranjan Gogoi, and Justices S.A. Bobde, Dr. D.Y Chandrachud (as he was then), Ashok Bhushan, and S. Abdul Nazeer interpreted the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991 in the case of M Siddiq (Dead) Through Legal Representatives vs Mahant Suresh Das and Ors. (Ram Janmabhoomi temple case).

The Court gave a binding declaration of the law interpreting the Act, which, under the constitutional scheme, becomes the law of the land and binds all courts within the territory of India under Article 141 of the Constitution of India. Its decisions must be followed by all courts (even the top court) in subsequent cases following the Doctrines of "Precedent" and stare decisis. The rationale is that the law by which the citizens are governed should be fixed, definite, and known.

Constitutional basis to an assurance

The Preamble to the Act states: "An Act to prohibit conversion of any place of worship and to provide for the maintenance of the religious character of any place of worship as it existed on the 15th day of August 1947, and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto." The five judges who authored the judgment collectively in the Ram Janmabhoomi temple case defined the Act thus: "The law has been enacted to fulfil two purposes. First, it prohibits the conversion of any place of worship. In doing so, it speaks to the future by mandating that the character of a place of public worship shall not be altered. Second, the law seeks to impose a positive obligation to maintain the religious character of every place of worship as it existed on 15 August 1947 when India achieved independence from colonial rule."

"Place of worship" includes temple, mosque, gurudwara, church, monastery or any other place of public religious worship of any religious denomination or any section thereof, by whatever name called. The definition in the Act states "Conversion with its grammatical variations, includes alteration or change of whatever nature."

The Court further holds that "Section 3 enacts a bar on the conversion of a place of worship of any religious denomination or a section of it into a place of worship of a different religious denomination or of a different segment of the same religious denomination" and that "Section 4 preserves the religious character of the place of worship as it existed on 15 August 1947". The Court held that only a place of worship, "Commonly known as Ram Janam Bhumi-Babri Masjid" stood exempted. The Justices declared, "The law imposes two unwavering and mandatory norms: A bar is imposed by Section 3 on the conversion of a place of worship of any religious denomination or a section of a denomination into a place of worship either of a different section of the same religious denomination or of a distinct religious denomination. The expression 'place of worship' is defined in the broadest possible terms to cover places of public religious worship of all religions and denominations".

> The Supreme Court of India's order in the Gyanvapi mosque case raises serious questions about its legality, propriety and justness

After noticing the intention of Parliament, the Justices emphasised that "The Places of Worship Act which was enacted in 1991 by Parliament protects and secures the fundamental values of the Constitution". They held that "In providing a guarantee for the preservation of the religious character of places of public worship as they existed on 15 August 1947 and against the conversion of places of public worship, Parliament determined that independence from colonial rule furnishes a constitutional basis for healing the injustices of the past by providing the confidence to every religious community that their places of worship will be preserved and that their character will not be altered".

The Justices added, "The law speaks to our history and to the future of the nation. Cognizant as we are of our history and of the need for the nation to confront it, Independence was a watershed moment to heal the wounds of the past. Historical wrongs cannot be remedied by the people taking the law in their own hands. In preserving the character of places of public worship, Parliament has mandated... that history and its wrongs shall not be used as instruments to oppress the present and the future."

Interestingly, the Justices empathically disapproved the judgment of Justice D.V. Sharma of the Allahabad High Court against which they were hearing the appeals in which the judge had held that the "Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991 does not debar those cases where declaration is sought for a period prior to the Act came into force or for enforcement of right which was recognised before coming into force of the Act." The Justices held that "The above conclusion of D V Sharma, J. is directly contrary to the provisions of Section 4(2)", and that, "Section 4(2) specifically contemplates that all suits, appeals and legal proceedings existing on the day of commencement of the Places of Worships Act, with respect to the conversion of the religious character of a place of worship, existing on 15 August 1947, pending before any court, tribunal or authority shall abate, and no suit, appeal or proceeding with respect to such matter shall lie after the commencement of the Act. ...Clearly, in the face of the statutory mandate, the exception which has been carved out by Justice D V Sharma runs contrary to the terms of the legislation and is therefore erroneous".

The Supreme Court's order on August 4, 2023 refusing to stay the order of the Allahabad High Court dated August 2, 2023 in the Anjuman Intezamia Masjid Committee challenging the order of the Allahabad High Court which affirmed the order of the District and Sessions Court, Varanasi dated July 21, 2023 raises serious questions about its legality, propriety and justness. The Bench comprising CJI D.Y. Chandrachud, Justice J.B. Pardiwala and Justice Manoj Misra, are, with the greatest respects, completely wrong in allowing the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) survey on the premise that the key question for any determination under the Act of 1991 is the religious character of a place of worship as it existed on August 15, 1947. The Bench has singularly failed to follow a binding precedent to which Justice Chandrachud himself was a party in the Ram Janmabhoomi temple case. There can be no doubt in anyone's mind that the Gyanvapi mosque has been a place of public worship for centuries for Muslims and, therefore, there is an absolute and total bar on changing its character in any manner, into a place of worship of a different religious denomination.

If the nature of the mosque is untouchable since it existed on August 15, 1947, then what purpose can an ASI inquiry be directed at? And what purpose can it achieve? The Court never allows or grants futile reliefs.

The Supreme Court has completely overlooked that the obligations under the Act were upon the state as also on every citizen of the nation and those who govern the affairs of the nation at every level were bound by it.

The Supreme Court is the ultimate custodian of constitutional values and morality. Applying the spirit of the judgment of Ram Janmabhoomi temple case, the three courts ought to have been extraordinarily mindful about the rights and feelings of the minority community. At a crucial time when elections are approaching,, any majoritarian approach can create serious misgivings in the minds of sections of society.

Bigotry during parts of the Islamic period has always stood condemned; in fact that led to the rise of the powerful Marathas, Rajputs and Sikhs, resulting in overthrowing the Muslim empire.

The opening of a Pandora's box

The question now is this: how far do we go from here? Do we order such a survey for every mosque because claims will be made by people across cities and villages? Someone may even suggest that we dig up the Red Fort and the Taj Mahal. There is also a plea on the Court "praying for a scientific survey" of the Mathura mosque. The Supreme Court has opened a Pandora's box.

We must remember that while injustice was done to the Hindus by Muslim rulers, democratic India cannot perpetuate them to undo them. One can only remember that rulers like Akbar respected Hindus and allowed religious freedom to them. The Bhakti movement which produced some of the greatest saints such as Chaitanya, Surdas, Tulsidas, Gopala Bhatt, Sankardeva, Eknath, Tukaram, Dadu, Meera Bai, and Guru Nanak raised the status of non-Brahmins, especially Dalits amongst Hindus. In that sense, religion was democratised.

When history is written in future, there should not be any reference that the Hindus of the 21st century indulged in religious bigotry. For over 5,000 years Hinduism has been a way of life and one of the greatest religions marked by Liberalism, Tolerance and Absorption. Let us hope for peace and prosperity in our beloved India.

The rise and fall of a Russian warlord

Uma Purushothaman

is Assistant Professor, Department of International Relations, Central University of Kerala, Periye, Kasargod, Kerala

On June 24 this year, Yevgeny Prigozhin, the leader of the Russian private military company, the Wagner Group, marched his troops to within 200 kilometres of Moscow, protesting against the Russian Defence Ministry. This was the most noteworthy challenge to the regime of Russian President Vladimir Putin ever since he took over power in 1999. The mutiny ended within a day with the intervention of Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko. The Wagner Group was exiled to Belarus in exchange for criminal immunity.

Speculation, reactions, Putin's response

Two months later, Russian officials confirmed that Prigozhin had died in a plane crash near Moscow along with other top officials of Wagner, that included Dmitry Utkin, the co-founder of the group and a former military intelligence officer who was in charge of Wagner's operations, and Valery Chekalov, its security chief. Speculation is rife within Russia and abroad about who is responsible for the death of the popular leader (Prigozhin was often photographed with soldiers on the battlefield in sharp contrast to top officials in the Russian Defence Ministry). While the West has put the blame on Mr. Putin, the Kremlin has denied any responsibility and has launched an investigation.

Regardless of the results, Prigozhin's death would be welcomed by some and cause uneasiness in others in Russia. It strengthens Mr. Putin's hands, bolstering his image as a strong leader; his compromise with Prigozhin, whom he had described as a "traitor" after the mutiny had led to perceptions of him being weak and not in control. However, deeply aware of Prigozhin's popularity, Mr. Putin chose his words of condolence carefully: he hailed Prigozhin as a "talented businessman" who had "made some serious mistakes in his life". Mr. Putin is facing an election in March 2024 and he would be wary of hurting the sentiments of his electorate. In fact, there was speculation that Prigozhin himself had political ambitions.

> The death of Wagner Group leader Yevgeny Prigozhin will have little impact on Russian domestic politics or on Vladimir Putin's influence

His death would have come as a relief to the Russian Defence Minister, Sergei Shoigu and General Valery Gerasimov, chief of the General Staff of the Russian Armed Forces and First Deputy Minister of Defence, both of whom were criticised by Prigozhin for their conduct of the war and their poor leadership skills. Again, just before the plane crash, their rival, General Sergei Surovikin – he was a friend of Prigozhin's and was being investigated for having advance information about the Wagner mutiny – was removed from his post as the head of Russian aerospace force. Gen. Surokovin, or General Armageddon as he was known, was briefly in charge of Russian military operations in Ukraine, between October 2022 and January 2023. Therefore, Prigozhin's passing along with Surokovin's demotion is a shot in the arm for the the two men, who are valued by Mr. Putin for their loyalty.

A patriot for the man on the street

Many ordinary Russian citizens saw Prigozhin as a patriot for his exploits in Ukraine, particularly because of Wagner's role in capturing Bakhmut; several makeshift memorials came up quickly across the country for them to mourn. The nationalists, who support the invasion of Ukraine but feel the war is not going as well as expected and want the war to be waged more aggressively, had cheered Prigozhin as a national hero for criticising the military, and will understandably grieve for him. The elites and the oligarchs, some of whom had sympathy for Prigozhin's march and are feeling the adverse impact of western sanctions, will see his death as another reminder of the regime's iron-clad hold on the state. For the liberals, many of whom are in prison, the death only reinforces their perceptions about the regime's habit of punishing those who oppose it.

An instrument of Russian influence

Prigozin's death will have little impact on the war in Ukraine because the Wagner group had pulled out of Ukraine a few weeks ago. Moreover, many members of the group have signed contracts with the Russian Defence Ministry. However, his death could affect the group itself because its top leadership has been wiped out now and the group does not have a clear leadership structure like traditional militaries do. So, it is uncertain who will take over.

However, it is possible that Mr. Putin will get someone more subservient to him to lead the group and strengthen his hold on it or even bring the group under the Defence Ministry or an intelligence agency. But this might not go down well with the Wagner mercenaries, many of whom are deeply loyal to Prigozhin. The Wagner Group will probably continue as a Russian proxy force in West Asia and Africa as it is an instrument of Russian influence abroad and has billions of dollars in assets in Africa. But in Africa, as the Wagner Group recoups from Prigozhin's death, there will be some respite for the French and the Americans, who have been fighting Russia's renewed influence in the region because of Wagner. The message to the rest of the world is that the regime in Russia remains stable despite the mutiny, despite Prigozhin's death and despite the sanctions.

Overall, therefore, Prigozhin's death will have little impact on Russian domestic politics or on Mr. Putin's influence. In fact, his death might enable Mr. Putin to exert greater control over the activities of the Wagner group. Otherwise, life will go on as usual in Russia. As will the protracted war in Ukraine.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Studying the sun

The solar observatory mission, Aditya-L1, highlights the back-to-back success story for ISRO's scientists. The final mission outcomes will be of pivotal significance.

G. Ramasubramanyam,
Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh

It is now the sun! It is also time for us Indians to say that 'we can also do great things'.

R. Haripriya,
Madurai

Science and Neeraj

The information in the spread, "The science behind Neeraj's skills" ('Sports Explainer', September 3), was exceptional and motivating. For any athlete, mastering these techniques and steps is challenging, but Neeraj Chopra has shown the way while making India proud on the world stage.

Annu S.J.,
Mangaluru

Corrections & Clarifications

Error in the story, "Controversy erupts over depiction of Hanuman at temple in Gujarat" (September 3, 2023, some editions): the temple "is managed by" the Vadtal Gadi Sansthan of the Swaminarayan sect, and not the "Bochasanwasi Akshar Purushottam Sanstha (BAPS)", as mentioned.

The Readers' Editor's office can be contacted by Telephone: +91-44-28418297/28576300; E-mail:readerseditor@thehindu.co.in

Scan the QR code. Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

Measuring hunger across States

Despite being a major food producer with extensive food security schemes and the largest public distribution system in the world, India still grapples with significant levels of food insecurity, hunger, and child malnutrition. The Global Hunger Index (GHI), 2022, ranked India 107 among 121 countries, behind Nigeria (103) and Pakistan (99). The GHI provides a composite measurement and tracks undernourishment and hunger at the national level across three dimensions: calorie undernourishment, child malnutrition, and under-five mortality.

According to the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World report of 2022, India is home to 224.3 million undernourished people. Disparities are evident among States. Leveraging subnational data that encompasses the three dimensions of the GHI enables the development of an India-specific hunger index at the level of States and Union Territories. This plays a pivotal role in evaluating the extent of undernourishment at a more localised scale, which is critical for meeting the Sustainable Development Goals of eradicating hunger and malnutrition.

Nandlal Mishra

is a doctoral fellow at the International Institute for Population Sciences, Mumbai

The State Hunger Index

The GHI is computed using four indicators – the prevalence of calorie undernourishment; and of stunting, wasting, and mortality among children below the age of five; and under-five mortality rate. The State Hunger Index (SHI) is calculated using the same indicators except calorie undernourishment, which is replaced by body mass index (BMI) undernourishment among the working-age population, as data on calorie undernourishment are not available since 2012.

Data for stunting, wasting, and mortality among children below the age of five are sourced from the fifth round of the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5), while the prevalence of BMI undernourishment is computed using NFHS-5 (2019-21) and Wave 1 of the Longitudinal Ageing Study in India (2017-18). The calculation of the SHI score involves combining the normalised values of the four indicators using the techniques recommended by the GHI. The SHI scores range between 0 and 100, with higher scores indicating more hunger. Scores below 10 signify low hunger, 10-20 moderate, 20-30 serious, 30-40 alarming, and 50 or above extremely alarming.

In the SHI, Bihar, Jharkhand, and Chhattisgarh scored 35, which places them in the 'alarming' category. Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Tripura, Maharashtra, and West Bengal all scored above the national average (29). The performance of these States resembles that of African nations such as Haiti, Niger, Liberia, and Sierra Leone. On the other hand, Chandigarh scored 12, and Sikkim, Puducherry, and Kerala all scored below 16. These States, along with Manipur, Mizoram, Punjab, Delhi, Arunachal Pradesh, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, and Tamil Nadu, fall under the 'moderate hunger' category. All the other States, which scored below the national average and above 20, have a problem of 'serious hunger'. No State falls under the 'low hunger' category. The impact of COVID-19 on the SHI is not captured here since post-pandemic estimates are not yet available.

In 2008, Purnima Menon, Anil Deolalikar, and Anjor Bhaskar made a comparable effort to grasp the variation in hunger at a subnational level using the then methodology of computing GHI. Among the 17 States they assessed, Punjab led the list, with Kerala and Andhra Pradesh following closely as top performers. On the other hand, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Bihar, and Chhattisgarh were ranked as the least-performing States.

Over the last half a decade, India's GHI score has deteriorated primarily due to the increasing prevalence of calorie undernourishment. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization, the proportion of calorie undernourishment in India has been escalating since 2017, reaching 16.3% in 2020, equivalent to the 2009 statistic. The Indian government has disputed these conclusions by raising concerns about the data and methodology used in calculating the GHI. However, it has not been able to provide empirical evidence to support its claims. Notably, no National Sample Survey (NSS) round on nutritional intake has been conducted by the government since 2011-12, which used to offer insights into the prevalence of calorie undernourishment at national and subnational levels. In the 78th round of the NSS conducted in 2020-21, four key questions were included to gauge household food insecurity. Unfortunately, information on these is missing from the NSS report.

Facing the reality

While the GHI has faced significant criticism from experts regarding its conceptualisation, indicator selection, and aggregation methods, it does provide critical insight into the state of undernourishment and child nutrition. India's poor performance in the GHI is primarily attributed to its high prevalence of undernourishment and child malnutrition. India ranks unfavourably in child wasting, performing worse than many low-income African nations. The NFHS-5 indicated that one-third of children under the age of five are stunted and underweight, while every fifth child suffers from wasting. Despite India's notable progress in alleviating extreme poverty over the last 15 years, as indicated by the recent National Multidimensional Poverty Index, challenges persist in addressing the disparity in food insecurity, hunger, and child malnutrition.

An India-specific hunger index at the level of States and Union Territories helps evaluate the extent of undernourishment at a more localised scale

The BJP's dilemma in Bihar

State BJP leaders have been caught on the back foot on the issue of caste census

STATE OF PLAY

Amarnath Tewary
amarnath.tewary@thehindu.co.in

The caste survey in Bihar, which was initiated by the Nitish Kumar government, has posed a dilemma to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

The process of conducting the three-phase caste survey in the State began on January 7, 2023. Ahead of the meeting of the Opposition alliance in Mumbai recently, Mr. Kumar said that the caste survey has been completed and the results will be published soon.

The State BJP had initially supported the Bihar government's decision to conduct the survey "on its own." The Bihar legislature passed resolutions on February 18, 2019 and February 27, 2020 in favour of a caste census. An all-party delegation, including BJP representatives, met Prime Minister Narendra Modi on August 23, 2021 in New Delhi pressing for a nationwide caste census.

However, in July 2023, Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai said in a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha that the Government of India had decided as a matter of policy not to enumerate a caste-wise population except for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

On August 1, the Bihar government secured relief when the Patna High Court dismissed all the petitions filed against the government's decision to conduct the caste survey. The High Court allowed the State government to complete the exercise saying that the survey had been "initiated with due competence." On August 21, while hearing petitions against the Patna High

Court order, the Supreme Court asked Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta to file his response. Mr. Mehta told the Court that the State's survey has some "ramifications" that necessitated an intervention by the Union government in the matter.

On August 28, the Union government filed an affidavit in the Supreme Court saying "no other body is empowered to conduct the exercise of either census or any action akin to census." However, within hours, it filed a revised affidavit withdrawing this statement. The new affidavit said that the census is a statutory process and is governed by the Census Act, 1948. The affidavit read, "The Act empowers only the Central government to conduct the census under Section 3 of the Census Act, 1948."

This put the BJP leaders in Bihar in a spot.

Following the developments in court, senior BJP leader and former Speaker Vijay Kumar Sinha said that while the party had indeed supported the caste survey in Bihar at first, the intention of the Bihar government was "only to create a social divide" by conducting the caste census. Another BJP leader said that the exercise would "revive the 'Mandal versus Kamandal (backward versus forward)' politics in the State again." However, on August 28, BJP Rajya Sabha member Sushil Kumar Modi said, "In the affidavit, the Centre clarified that there was no confrontation between the Centre and the State government on the constitutional point of view. Stating the constitutional position in the apex court, the Centre clarified that the State was free to conduct the social and economic census."

Leaders of the Rashtriya Janata Dal, Janata Dal (United) and Congress, which form the the Grand Alliance in Bihar, have seized the opportunity to accuse the BJP of "conspiring" against the caste survey through the "backdoor", the court. RJD Rajya Sabha MP Manoj Jha alleged in Patna on August 27 that "failing in its mission to stop the survey process, the PMO, later, itself jumped into the matter through the solicitor-general Tushar Mehta." JD(U) leader and party spokesperson Neeraj Kumar said that the way the Union government is "opposing the caste survey in the Supreme Court reflects the BJP's desperation to keep the actual status of the Scheduled Castes, Backward Classes, and other deprived sections of the society under wraps". Congress leaders, too, slammed the BJP for the "glaring contradiction in its words and deeds over the issue."

As the Supreme Court refused to put a stay on the Patna High Court order allowing the caste survey in Bihar, Mr. Kumar said that his government's decision has been vindicated while the BJP's plan to make the issue a poll plank has fallen flat. The Grand Alliance will likely capitalise on the survey before the parliamentary elections. But State BJP leaders have been caught on the back foot this time as they first supported the survey and have now been compelled to oppose saying it would "foment social tension."

The northern plains of India is the most polluted region

The average resident in the northern plains is on track to lose 8 years of life expectancy if current pollution levels persist

DATA POINT

The Hindu Data Team

Data from the Air Quality Life Index 2021 shows that failure to meet the World Health Organization (WHO)'s guidelines on reducing PM2.5 (particulate matter) pollution to 5 µg/m3 would cut global life expectancy by 2.3 years. AQLI data emphasises that ambient particulate pollution poses the world's greatest external risk to human health.

South Asia is at the centre of the crisis. According to AQLI data, from 2013 to 2021, particulate pollution in South Asia surged by 9.7%, which is estimated to reduce life expectancy in the region by an additional six months.

Bangladesh, India, Nepal, and Pakistan, where 22.9% of the global population lives, are the most polluted countries in the world (**Chart 1**). In Bangladesh, the most polluted country in 2021, people potentially lost an average of 6.8 years of life due to air pollution not meeting WHO guidelines. In contrast, the average person from the U.S. lost just 3.6 months.

Notably, China stands out due to its success in reducing pollution by a staggering 42.3% from 2013 to 2021 and extending the average life expectancy of its population by 2.2 years. This reduction can be attributed to the country's policy initiatives to combat pollution in 2014.

In India, the second-most polluted country in the world in 2021, particulate pollution is the greatest threat to human health (**Chart 2**). Data reveal a further rise in PM2.5 pollution from 56.2 µg/m3 in 2020 to 58.7 µg/m3 in 2021, exceeding the WHO guidelines by more than 10 times. The average Indian resident is set to lose 5.3 years of life expectancy if WHO guidelines remain unmet. In contrast, cardiovascular diseases reduce the average Indian's life expectancy by about 4.5 years, while child and maternal malnutrition reduces it by 1.8 years.

Chart 3 shows the most polluted States in India and the potential life expectancy loss if pollution levels do not meet WHO guidelines. In Delhi, the world's most polluted city, 18 million people could lose 11.9 years of life expectancy relative to the WHO guideline and 8.5 years of life expectancy relative to the national guideline if current pollution levels persist.

The northern plains, home to over half a billion people and 38.9% of India's population, is the most polluted region. The northern plains include the States and Union Territories of Bihar, Chandigarh, Delhi, Haryana, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal. **Chart 4** shows the annual average PM2.5 concentrations in India, the northern plains, and all other regions. In the northern plains, the average resident is set to lose about 8 years of life expectancy if pollution levels persist and policies do not succeed in reducing pollution to levels as prescribed by the WHO.

Pollution, once concentrated in the northern region, has spread to other parts of the country over the last two decades. For instance, in Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh, which have a combined population of 204.2 million, pollution has surged by 76.8% and 78.5%, respectively, since 2000, causing a loss of an additional 1.8 years to 2.3 years of life expectancy compared to 2000 levels.

AQLI's life expectancy calculations are based on a pair of peer-reviewed studies, Chen et al. (2013) and Ebenstein et al. (2017), co-authored by Michael Greenstone. These studies compared two population subgroups exposed to different levels of particulate air pollution. This method effectively isolated the impact of particulate air pollution from other health factors. Ebenstein et al. found that sustained exposure to an additional 10 µg/m3 of PM2.5 reduces life expectancy by 0.98 years.

Choking on air

The charts and data were sourced from the Air Quality Life Index Annual Update for 2023 published by Michael Greenstone and Christa Hasenkopf of the University of Chicago

Chart 1 | The chart shows the annual PM2.5 concentrations in the top 25 most polluted countries and other select ones

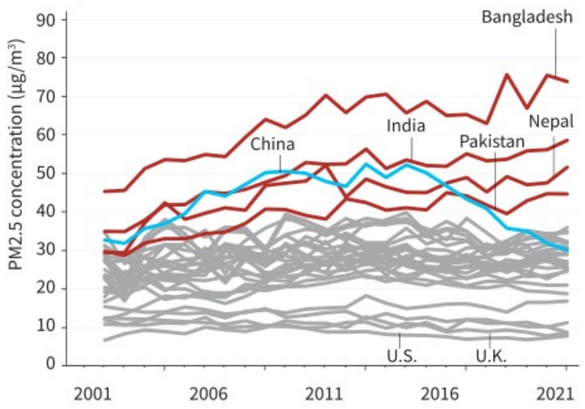


Chart 2 | The chart shows the top 5 threats to life expectancy in India

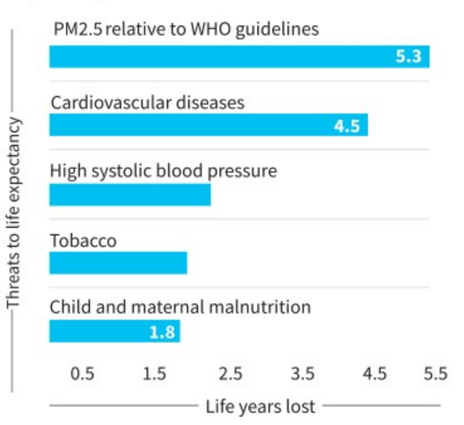


Chart 3 | The chart shows the most polluted States in India and the potential life expectancy loss if pollution levels persist

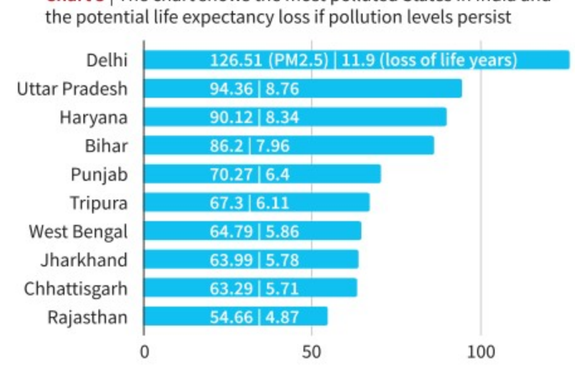
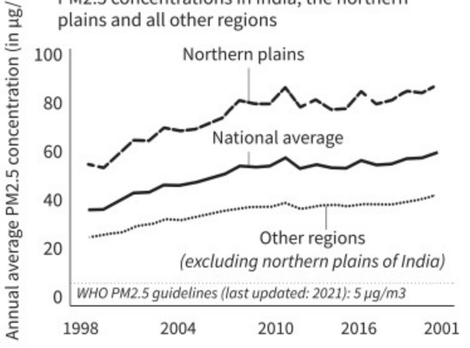


Chart 4 | The chart shows the annual average PM2.5 concentrations in India, the northern plains and all other regions



FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO SEPTEMBER 4, 1973

Govt. agrees to put off Cr. P.C. debate

New Delhi, Sept. 3: The Lok Sabha to-day decided to post-pone consideration of the Code of Criminal Procedure Bill in the next session of Parliament. During the resumed debate on the Bill, several Opposition members, including Mr. A.B. Vajpayee (Jan Sangh) and Mr. Madhu Limaye (SP) took exception to a move for the reconsideration of Clause 125 of the Cr.P.C. which had already been adopted by the House. Before the House could decide on the Government's move for a reconsideration of the clause, Mr. Ram Nivas Mirdha, Minister of State for Home Affairs said that the Government had no objection to taking up the Bill in the next session of Parliament. The Speaker, Mr. G.S. Dhillon announced that further discussion would be taken up at the next session. Earlier, as soon as the consideration of the 484 clauses of the Bill was completed and the House was proceeding to the third reading of the Bill, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Mr. K. Raghuramaiah moved that the discussions on the Bill be adjourned for an hour because the Government wanted to have a second look at Clause 125, which had already been passed. Clause 125 related to the maintenance of wives, children and parents in case of neglect. Muslim League members had opposed it on the ground that it offended the Muslim personal law.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO SEPTEMBER 4, 1923

The earthquake catastrophe

London, Sept. 3: An Osaka officer who flew over Tokio and the stricken districts states the Imperial Palace is safe and only partially damaged. Tokio is devastated except two wards and parts of two others. Nearly all concrete brick buildings have collapsed. The tidal wave flooded out one ward and not a single house is visible in Amakusa. The Yokosuka Marine station appears entirely destroyed. The holiday resort, the sacred island of Ezoshima and Kamakura district are submerged. The Airman says it was difficult to fly over the city owing to the intensity of the flames and suffocating smoke. No serious damage is reported at Nikko where the Emperor is staying. The Imperial Palace has been thrown open to refugees. There is no news of the safety of foreign diplomatic representatives, nor of any of the foreign residents in Tokio.

From Page One

Populism will hit the poor hard, says Modi

He said that India would be a developed country by the end of the *Amrit Kaal* period in 2047.

"India is again on the rise. The speed with which we jumped five spots, from the 10th largest economy to the 5th largest in less than a decade has conveyed the fact that India means business! We have democracy, demography and diversity with us. As I said, now a fourth D is getting added to it – development."

"Indians who are living in this era have a great chance to lay a foundation for growth that will be remembered for the next 1,000 years," he said.

'Inclusive, innovative'

"This is why you see an unprecedented rise across multiple domains. By 2047, I am sure that our country will be among the developed countries. Our economy will be even more inclusive and innovative. Our poor people will comprehensively win the battle against poverty. Health, education, and social sector outcomes will be among the best in the world. Corruption, casteism, and communalism will have no place in our national life. The quality of life of our people will be at par with the best countries of the world. Most importantly, we will achieve all of this while caring for both nature and culture."

He said debt restructuring was an important concern highlighted under India's Presidency of the G-20. "Our G-20 Presidency has placed a significant emphasis on addressing the global challenges posed by debt vulnerabilities, especially for nations in the Global South," he said.

"G-20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors have acknowledged the good progress in debt treatment of Common Framework countries and beyond the Common Framework too. We have also been greatly sensitive to the needs of our valued neighbour, Sri Lanka, during their tough times," he said.

"To accelerate global debt restructuring efforts, the Global Sovereign Debt Roundtable, a joint initiative of the IMF, World Bank, and the G-20 Presidency, was launched earlier this year. This will strengthen communication among key stakeholders and facilitate effective debt treatment," he added.

Responding to a question on the United Nations and its responsiveness to the new developing world order, Mr. Modi emphasised that "institutions can retain relevance only when they change with the times".

"A mid-20th century approach cannot serve the world in the 21st century. So, our international institutions need to recognise changing realities, expand their decision-making forums, relook at their priorities and ensure representation of voices that matter."

"When this is not done on time, then smaller or regional forums begin to attain more importance. The G-20 is certainly one of the institutions that is being looked at with hope by many countries. Because the world is looking for actions and outcomes, no matter where they come from," he said. "As a diverse nation, the Mother of Democracy, the home to one of the world's largest populations of youth, and the growth engine of the world, India has a lot to contribute to the shaping of the future of the world," he added.

Reflecting on the current scenario with regard to price volatility the world over, Prime Minister Modi said that inflation was a key issue being faced by the world.

"Inflation is a key issue that the world faces. Our G-20 Presidency engaged the G-20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors. It was recognised that timely and clear communication of policy stances by Central Banks is crucial. This can ensure that policies taken by each country to combat inflation do not lead to negative repercussions in other countries. Significant emphasis was also placed on enabling countries to share policy experiences on how they tackle the challenges associated with food and energy price volatility especially since food and energy markets are closely interconnected," he said.

Kharge calls meet of floor leaders of INDIA

Mr. Kharge asked if the proposed committee was best suited to deliberate and decide on perhaps the most drastic disruption in the Indian electoral process. "Should this huge exercise unilaterally be undertaken without consulting the political parties at the national level and at the State level? Should this humongous operation happen without bringing States and their elected governments on board," he asked, adding that such an idea had been rejected by three committees in the past. "It remains to be seen whether the fourth one has been constituted with a pre-decided outcome in mind. It baffles us that a representative of the prestigious Election Commission (EC) has been excluded from the committee."

The Congress president said the cost incurred by the EC in conducting all elections between 2014 and 2019 was around ₹5,500 crore, which is "only a fraction" of the government's Budget expenditure. "Drastic actions like 'one nation, one election' would sabotage our democracy, Constitution and evolved time-tested procedures. What can be accomplished by simple electoral reforms would prove to be a disaster, like other disruptive ideas of PM Modi," he said. CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury said the BJP government was trying all gimmicks it could think of. "But Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's 'one man, one value' is the only one ideal we must not lose sight of. No amount of BJP's attempts to divide, distract and spread discord will work," Mr. Yechury said.

Campaigning ends for byelections in seven Assembly constituencies

Bypolls would be held in the constituencies of Dhupguri in West Bengal, Bageshwar in Uttarakhand, Puthuppally in Kerala, Ghosi in U.P., Dhanpur and Boxanagar in Tripura and Dumri in Jharkhand tomorrow; counting is on Friday

Sreeparna Chakrabarty
NEW DELHI

Campaigning came to an end on Sunday for the byelections to be held on Tuesday in seven Assembly constituencies spread over six States.

The byelections will be held in Dhupguri (West Bengal), Bageshwar (Uttarakhand), Puthupally (Kerala), Ghosi (Uttar Pradesh), Dhanpur and Boxanagar in Tripura and Dumri (Jharkhand). The counting of votes will take place on September 8.

The bypoll in north Bengal's Dhupguri seat was necessitated by the demise of BJP MLA Bishnupada Roy on July 25. The Trinamool Congress, the BJP and the Left-Congress combine are locked in a three-cornered contest here.

The BJP has fielded Tapasi Roy, wife of a CRPF jawan who was killed in the Pulwama attack in Jammu and Kashmir in 2019, while the Trinamool and the CPI (M) have fielded Nirmal Chandra Roy and Ishwar Chandra Roy, respectively.

Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren campaigning during the Dumri byelection in the State on Sunday. PTI

In Uttarakhand's Bageshwar Assembly constituency, the byelection will take place after the seat fell vacant following the death of BJP MLA Chandan Ram Das. The ruling BJP has fielded his wife Parvati Das from the seat.

The Congress has fielded Basant Kumar, who quit the Aam Aadmi Party just a few days before being declared the candidate.

Kerala bypoll

Campaigning also came to an end for the byelection in the Puthuppally Assembly constituency in Kerala, which was held by the Congress leader Oommen Chandy for 53 years.

Chandy passed away on July 18. His son Chandy Oommen of the United Democratic Front is pitted against the CPI(M)'s Jaick C. Thomas. The BJP has fielded senior leader Lijin Lal.

In Tripura, bypolls would be held in the Dhanpur and Boxanagar Assembly seats. Tafajjal Hussain of the BJP, who unsuccessfully contested the Assembly election in February, will take on the CPI(M)'s Mizan Hussain in minority-dominated Boxanagar constituency which is a Left stronghold.

Mr.Mizan is the son of the late Samsol Haque of the CPI(M), who passed away in July causing the vacancy.

In Dhanpur, the bypoll was necessitated after Union Minister Pratima Bhoumik resigned from the Assembly. There would be a direct fight between the BJP's Bindu Debnath and the CPI(M)'s Kaushik Debnath as there are only two other Independent candidates who are unlikely to have much impact.

The campaigning for the Ghosi bypoll, the first electoral battle in Uttar Pradesh since the formation of the newly formed Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) bloc, ended amid allegations and counter-allegations, with the BJP writing to the State Election Commission in Lucknow alleging that the Samajwadi Party (SP) candidate Sudhakar Singh was distributing money in the Dalit and Muslim areas of the Assembly segment. The SP claimed the BJP government was trying to influence the poll by deleting the names of Muslim voters.

The bypoll is going to be a direct fight between BJP candidate Dara Singh Chauhan and SP nominee Sudhakar Singh.

In Dumri, INDIA bloc candidate Bebi Devi is locked in a direct contest with NDA candidate Yashoda Devi. The byelection was necessitated by the death of sitting MLA from the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha Jagarnath Mahto.

EC to visit Bhopal today to inspect poll measures

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Election Commission (EC) will visit Bhopal from September 4 to 6 as it gears up to hold Assembly polls in five States.

The commission, comprising Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Rajiv Kumar and Election Commissioners Anup Chandra Pandey and Arun Goel, has already been to Chhattisgarh and Mizoram to take stock of poll preparedness there. It is usual for the commission to visit poll-bound States before announcing the election schedule.

The Assembly polls in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Telangana, Mizoram and Rajasthan are likely to be held in October-November.

The term of the Legislative Assembly of Mizoram ends on December 17. The Mizo National Front is in power in the northeastern State. The terms of the Assemblies of Telangana, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh end on different dates in January.

Sonia Gandhi hospitalised, condition stable

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Congress Parliamentary Party chairperson Sonia Gandhi was admitted to Sir Ganga Ram Hospital in New Delhi on Saturday evening after having fever-like symptoms.

The condition of the 76-year-old Congress leader is said to be stable. She is being monitored by a team of doctors, a source said on Sunday.

Rahul visits

Her son, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, visited the hospital late on Saturday evening after he returned from Raipur, where he attended an official function of the Chhattisgarh government.

Ms. Gandhi attended the Mumbai meeting of the Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) on August 31 and September 1, along with other senior Opposition leaders.

There has been no official statement on Ms. Gandhi's health from the Congress party so far.

'One nation, one poll' a bid to undermine federalism: Stalin

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Sunday said the Bharatiya Janata Party government at the Centre had formed the panel on 'one nation, one election' in a "dictatorial manner", with "some puppets" as members, to hatch a "conspiracy".

Addressing party men during the wedding of a party functionary, Mr. Stalin, who is the president of the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, questioned why former President Ram Nath Kovind was made the head of the panel. "The President of India is common for all. Even when he is not holding the post, he should not come to politics. It is not fair that he is involved in any issue relating to politics."

Mr. Stalin questioned the absence of representatives from the DMK on the panel, as it is the third largest party in the Lok Sabha.

He said the AIADMK had opposed the idea of 'one nation, one election' when it was in power in the State but was supporting it now when the party is in the Opposition. Mr. Stalin said: "The goat would not know that it is being sacrificed. The AIADMK would become a scapegoat."

M.K. Stalin

"If the idea comes into force, not only the DMK but no political party will be able to function. It will become a one-man show and the Centre can even go on to announce 'one nation, one leader, one President'," he said.

As the DMK government had two-and-a-half years left in its tenure, Mr. Stalin asked if the idea came into force, what would happen to the government. "Would you dissolve this government? What about Kerala and West Bengal? Would you dissolve them [governments] as well? Would he dissolve the government in Karnataka too?"

"What would you do if no political party gets the majority in any one of the States? You would impose President's Rule till the next parliamentary elections?" he said.

In a social media post later, Mr. Stalin said it was a "blatant attempt to undermine" the federal structure of the country.

"It's a move towards centralised power that goes against the essence of #INDIA, a union of States. This abrupt announcement and the subsequent high-level committee formation only fuel suspicions. #OneNationOneElection is a recipe for #dictatorship, not #democracy," Mr. Stalin said.

Referring to one of the reasons being given for 'one nation, one election' that it would reduce expenses, Mr. Stalin said: "Whether you reduce the election expense, reduce your siphoning of funds. What has CAG report said? ₹7.5 lakh crore!"

He was referring to a report by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India about alleged irregularities in road laying work and toll collection.

Law Ministry officials brief Kovind on simultaneous polls

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Ram Nath Kovind

Top officials of the Union Law Ministry on Sunday held a preparatory briefing for former President Ram Nath Kovind who heads the high-level committee to examine and make recommendations for holding simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha, State Assemblies, and local bodies.

The government had on Saturday notified the eight-member committee.

People aware of the development said Law Secretary Niten Chandra, Legislative Secretary Reeta Vasishta, and others met Mr. Kovind on Sunday afternoon to understand how he would like to go about the agenda before the committee.

While Mr. Chandra is also the Secretary to the committee, Ms. Vasistha's department deals with the issue of elections, the Representation of the People Act and related rules.

Responding to a question on why the government issued a 'resolution' (*sankalp* in Hindi) to announce the names of the members of the high-level committee, an official explained that the Ministry was following precedents.

According to the resolution issued on Saturday, elections to the Lok Sabha and Legislative Assemblies were mostly held simultaneously from 1951-52 to 1967, after which this cycle got broken and now, elections are held almost every year and within a year too at different times, which result in massive expenditure by the government and other stakeholders.

Asynchronous elections also lead to diversion of security forces and other electoral officers from their primary duties for significantly prolonged periods, it said.

Assam government forms panel to draft anti-polygamy law

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

The Assam government has constituted a three-member panel to draft the proposed law to end polygamy in the State, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said on Sunday.

The members of this committee are Advocate-General Devajit Saikia, Legal Remembrancer Kuntal Sharma Pathak, and Director-General of Police Gyanendra Pratap Singh.

Mr. Sarma said the Assam government had earlier formed a committee headed by former Gauhati High Court judge, Justice Rumi Phookan (retd.), to examine the legislative competence of the State legislature to enact an anti-polygamy law.

"We first wanted to check if the State government has the right to ban polygamy. The committee chaired by Justice Phookan said the government has the right," he said.

He said the government had sought public view on the proposed anti-polygamy law. Of the 149 individuals and organisations that responded, 146 supported the move and three opposed it. Mr. Sarma said the government had assigned the new three-member committee to draft the proposed anti-polygamy law in keeping with a pre-2021 Assembly election promise to end such a practice and "love jihad".

BJP names ex-Deputy CM as Rajya Sabha candidate

The Hindu Bureau
LUCKNOW

The BJP on Sunday named former Deputy Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Dinesh Sharma as its candidate for the byelection to a Rajya Sabha seat. The byelection is scheduled for September 15. The seat fell vacant after the death of Hardwar Dubey in June.

In a press release, Arun Singh, national general secretary of the BJP, announced Mr. Sharma's candidature.

Mr. Sharma is likely to be elected unopposed as the BJP has a comfortable majority in the Assembly. He served as the Deputy CM in the Yogi Adityanath government's first term.

Congress to celebrate first anniversary of Bharat Jodo Yatra on Thursday

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

To mark the first anniversary of the Kanniyakumari-to-Kashmir Bharat Jodo Yatra on September 7, all district units of the Congress party will hold padyatras (foot march) in their respective areas.

A photo exhibition of the Bharat Jodo Yatra was inaugurated by the Congress in June. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

A circular from the party's general secretary (organisation) K.C. Venugopal to all party units read: "To commemorate the first anniversary of this historic Bharat Jodo Yatra, on the remarkable day of September 7, 2023, as per the directions of the Hon'ble Congress President Mallikarjun Khargeji, the party has decided to organise 'Bharat Jodo Padyatra' from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m."

Last year, Rahul Gandhi, along with 120 'Bharat Yatris', launched the Bharat Jodo Yatra in Kanniyakumari on September 7.

During the course of the yatra, Mr. Gandhi addressed 12 public meetings, over 100 corner meetings, and 13 press conferences.

The Congress leader had over 275 planned walking interactions and more than 100 sitting interactions.

‘GDP-centric view changing to human-centric one’

The *Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas* model that has shown the way in India can also be a guiding principle for the welfare of the world; just like a new order emerged after the Second World War, a new order is also taking shape post-COVID, and the country’s efforts to address global energy and debt concerns, as well as for greater inclusion of Global South, have been appreciated in G-20 and beyond, PM says

INTERVIEW

Narendra Modi

Press Trust of India

Prime Minister Narendra Modi speaks on G-20, fiscal responsibility, renewable energy and the challenge of debt restructuring, which has become a problem for the Global South. Edited excerpts:

The G-20 Presidency has given India the opportunity to promote its vision for a sustainable, inclusive, and equitable world, and to raise its profile as a leader in the Indo-Pacific region. Please share your thoughts on the achievements of the Indian Presidency.

The genesis of the G-20 was at the end of the last century. The major economies of the world got together with a vision of a collective and coordinated response to economic crises. Its salience grew even more during the global economic crisis in the first decade of the 21st century. But when the pandemic struck, the world understood that in addition to the economic challenges, there were also other important and immediate challenges impacting humanity. By this time, the world was already taking note of India’s human-centric model of development.

India’s response to the pandemic through a clear and coordinated approach, direct assistance to the most vulnerable using technology, coming up with vaccines and running the world’s largest vaccine drive, and sharing medicines and vaccines with nearly 150 countries – these were noted and well appreciated.

Many positive impacts are coming out of India’s G-20 Presidency. The effort towards greater inclusion for the Global South, especially Africa in global affairs has gained momentum. India’s G-20 Presidency has also sowed the seeds of confidence in the countries of the so-called ‘Third World’.

G-20 has emerged as the most influential bloc in the world, making up 85% of the global GDP. What do you see as the biggest challenge facing it as you hand over the Presidency to Brazil.

GDP-centric view of the world is now changing to a human-centric one. Like a new world order was seen after the Second World War, a new world order is taking shape post-COVID. The parameters of influence and impact are changing and this needs to be recognised. The *Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas* model that has shown the way in India can also be a guiding principle for the welfare of the world. Irrespective of the size of the GDP, every voice matters. India has proposed making the Africa Union a permanent member of G-20.

You launched the Solar Alliance a few years ago. Now you are proposing a bio-fuel alliance, which we believe you will unveil at G-20. What is the objective and how will it help import-dependent countries such as India on energy security.

We are perhaps the first among the G-20 countries to have achieved our climate targets nine years ahead of the scheduled date. We have moved from being just a member of global efforts to playing a leading role in many initiatives. Initiatives like the International Solar Alliance and Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure are bringing countries together for the planet. Now, the biofuel alliance is another step in this direction. Such alliances are aimed at creating options for developing countries. Biofuels are also important from the perspective of a circular economy.

Even your critics have admired the way you made G-20 a buzzword during India’s Presidency and planned a year-long calendar of high-profile meetings across the country. How did you envisage this concept of spreading G-20 meetings across India?

Unfortunately, in the past, there used to be an attitude of getting things done right here in Delhi, in and around Vigyan Bhavan. By the time our G-20 Presidency term ends, over 220 meetings would have happened across 60 cities in all 28 States and 8 Union Territories. Over 1 lakh participants from around 125 nationalities would have witnessed the skills of Indians.

Some of our neighbours raised objections to the venues of some of the meetings. What message did we send by hosting foreign leaders at G-20 in Kashmir and Arunachal Pradesh, notwithstanding the objections raised by Pakistan and China.

Ours is such a vast, beautiful and diverse nation. When G-20 meetings are happening, isn’t it natural that meetings will be held in every part of our country?

Are we expecting any consensus at the G-20 summit on the challenge of debt restructuring, which has become a problem for the Global South. Is India helping countries trapped in the Chinese debt trap such as Sri Lanka, Sudan etc. How much increase in allocation of assistance has India made to these countries?

The debt crisis is indeed a matter of great concern for the world, especially developing countries. First, countries that are going through debt crisis or have gone through it, have begun to give greater importance to financial discipline. You are well aware that I have urged our State governments to be conscious about financial discipline as well.

Whether it is in the national conference of Chief Secretaries or any such platform, I have said that financially irresponsible policies and populism may give political results in the short term but will extract a great social and economic price in the long term. Those who suffer the consequences the most are often the poorest and the most vulnerable. Our G-20 Presidency has placed a significant emphasis on addressing the global challenges posed by debt vulnerabilities, especially for nations in the Global South.

We have also been greatly sensitive to the needs of our valued neighbour, Sri Lanka, during their tough times.

Your message to President Putin in Samarkand that this is not an era of war has won worldwide endorsement. Given the differences between G-7 and the China-Russia combine, it will be difficult for the bloc to adopt this message. In that context what can India do to help forge a consensus?

There are many different conflicts across various regions. All of them need to be resolved through dialogue and diplomacy. This is our stand on any conflict anywhere. Whether as G-20 President or not, we will support every effort to ensure peace across the world.

(Full interview on bit.ly/pmmodiinterview)

BJP hails PM’s vision, Opposition flags unemployment

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The BJP and the Opposition traded barbs on Sunday, with the ruling party leaders hailing Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s vision for the country and the INDIA parties raising questions on “rising” prices and unemployment.

The Opposition parties are going to have a “massive heartburn and sleepless nights” with Mr. Modi laying the road map for the country’s progress in the next two-three decades, the BJP said.

“There is no doubt in anyone’s mind that India under PM Modi over the last nine years and India’s G-20 Presidency are big milestones in the country’s rise on the global stage,” Union Minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar said.

Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said Mr. Modi had transformed the talent pool to the advantage of a rising nation of 140 crore people.

Leaders of the Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) bloc, however, questioned the government’s track record on reining in unemployment and prices of essentials.

Congress leader Shashi Tharoor said it is unfortunate to “paint fantasies” about a distant future when the country is going through a “tough time”, and asserted that it is “too early to speak about super power because too many of our people are still super poor”. Congress MP Ranjeet Ranjan said roads are being beautified in view of the upcoming G-20 Summit but India’s youth “is asking about employment”.

DMK leader T.K.S. Elangovan said there was no political stability in the country at present. AAP MP Sanjay Singh claimed that under Mr. Modi, unemployment reached its highest level in 42 years.

Ethnic cleansing complete in Imphal, says Chidambaram after authorities evict Kuki families

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Former Union Minister and Congress leader P. Chidambaram on Sunday accused the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government in Manipur of resorting to “ethnic cleansing” in the Imphal Valley and said nothing could be more “shameful” than this development.

Mr. Chidambaram cited a report in *The Hindu* about the remaining five Kuki-Zo families, who had stayed put in Imphal after ethnic violence erupted in Manipur on May 3, being “forcibly removed” from their homes by the authorities.

“This means that ‘ethnic cleansing’ is complete in the Imphal Valley that is dominated by the Meitei people,” Mr. Chidambaram said in a post on X (formerly Twitter).

“A State government presides over ‘ethnic cleansing’ and the Central government claims that the government of the State is being carried on in accordance with the Constitution,” the Congress leader added.

Mr. Chidambaram said that nothing could be more shameful than this development and noted, “It marks a new low in India’s descent into lawlessness.”

May 3 clashes

Since May 3, Manipur has been witnessing ethnic clashes between the majority Meitei community and the tribal Kuki-Zo community.

More than 160 people have lost their lives and thousands of families have been displaced since ethnic clashes broke out in the State after a Tribal Solidarity march in Churachandpur turned violent over the Meitei community’s demand for Scheduled Tribe (ST) status.

While Meiteis account for about 53% of the State’s population and live mostly in the Imphal Valley, the Kukis and the Nagas make up a little over 40% and reside in the hill districts.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (AGRIL.), NORTHERN ZONE, AT/PO-REMED, SAMBALPUR-768006
e-mail : senzsambalpur@gmail.com
Notice No. 1725 Dt.31.08.2023
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement
Identification No.03/Agril./NZ/2023-24 Dt.31.08.2023.

1	Nos. of Work	02 nos.
2	Tendered amount in Rs.	Rs.1,43,15,339/- to Rs.2,98,74,562/-
3	Period of Completion	150 days
4	Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal	From 11.00 Hrs. of 07.09.2023 to 17.30 Hrs. of 16.09.2023
5	Last date / Time of receipt of bids in the portal	17.30 Hrs. of 16.09.2023
6	Date & Time of Opening of Bids	11.00 Hrs. of 26.09.2023
7	Name and Address of the Officer Inviting Bid	Superintending Engineer (Agril.), Northern Zone, At/Po- Remed, Sambalpur. Pin-768006

Further details can be seen from the web site **“www.tendersodisha.gov.in.”**
Superintending Engineer (Agril.), Northern Zone, Sambalpur
L-87: OIPR-01495/11/0003/2324

RAJIV GANDHI UNIVERSITY OF KNOWLEDGE TECHNOLOGIES
(Established through Act No.18 of 2008)
ANDHRA PRADESH, INDIA
Ref.No: RGUKT-AP/E-Proc/Student Amenities tenders /ET40-ET42/2023, Dt.04.09.2023
E-PROCUREMENT - TENDER NOTICE
Online tenders are hereby invited for procurement of **a)** Sports Uniforms, **b)** Shoes and Socks, **c)** Bed Sheets with pillow covers and Blankets to all four campuses of RGUKT through AP e-procurement.
Interested bidders can download and submit bids online from **04.09.2023** through **https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in** (AP Portal). For further details please visit the University website : **www.rgukt.in.**
DIPR 2320PP/CL, Dt:01-09-2023 Sd/- Chief Administrative Officer (FAC), RGUKT

BHARATIYA RESERVE BANK NOTE MUDRAN (P) LIMITED
(WHOLLY OWNED SUBSIDIARY OF RESERVE BANK OF INDIA)
Note Mudran Nagar, Mysuru-570 003, Karnataka, India
Tel : +91 821 2582905/15/25, Fax : +91 821 2582099
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BID
(OPEN TENDER ENQUIRY) THROUGH E-TENDERING
Tenders are invited for item as under:
E-Tender through MSTC Portal:
Tender No. O43/MYS/MMD/2023-24 - Supply of Block Board Packing Boxes at BRBNMPL, Mysuru & Salboni Presses.
MSTC EVENT No.: BRBNMPL/MYSURU PRESS/MMD/1/23-24/ET/9-BLOCK BOARD PACKING BOX
Vendors/Bidders are required to register themselves online with **www.mstcecommerce.com** for participation. The details are also published on our website **www.brbnmpl.co.in**. Amendments/ Corrigendum to the e-tender if any, issued in future will only be notified on the BRBNMPL's website and MSTC website as given above and will not be published in Newspaper. For downloading tender documents, last date of submission of above tenders and other details, kindly visit our website **www.brbnmpl.co.in**
General Manager & OIC

राजस्थान सरकार
कार्यालय अधीक्षक मथुरादास माथुर चिकित्सालय जोधपुर
क्रमांक- मदामाचि/ निविदा/जो/2023-24/19063 दिनांक 24.08.2023
ई-निविदा सूचना संख्या- 06(2023-24)
इस चिकित्सालय में निम्नांकित मदों की खरीद तथा सेवाओं के उपापन हेतु निम्नानुसार Online निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती है-

आईटम सं.	कार्य का विवरण	अनुमानित राशि (लाखों में)	अंतिम तिथि	UBN No.
1	Service of Rodent & Pest Control (Two Year)	15	04.09.2023	SMC2324GLRC00219
2	Supply of Refrigerator (One Year)	11	04.09.2023	SMC2324GLRC00220
3	Supply Of Nephrology Equipments (Two Year)	960	18.09.2023	SMC2324GLRC00221
4	Supply Of Physiotherapy Instruments (One Year)	5.7	11.09.2023	SMC2324GSRC00222
5	Service Of Refilling of Liquid Medical Oxygen Gas Cylinders (One Year)	10	11.09.2023	SMC2324GSRC00223
6	Service Of Audiologist/ Speech Therapist (Two Year)	8	04.09.2023	SMC2324GSRC00224
7	Supply Of Endoscopic Accessories (Two Year)	125	18.09.2023	SMC2324GLRC00225
8	Supply of Cardiothoracic implants/ instrument (Two Year)	960.00	18.09.2023	SMC2324GLRC00226

NOTE: Bid Notice and Bid Documents are also available at http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in & https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app.
DIPR/C/12882/2023
अधीक्षक
मथुरादास माथुर चिकित्सालय जोधपुर

Odisha State Medical Corporation Limited (OSMCL)
In front of Ram Mandir, Convent Square, Unit-III, Bhubaneswar-751 001
Tel.: (0674) 2380608; Website: www.osmcl.nic.in, Email: proc.osmcl.od@nic.in
Assuring Quality, Saving Lives
Notification No.9125/OSMCL/2023 Date : 01.09.2023
NOTICE INVITING E-Tender for SUPPLY, INSTALLATION & COMMISSIONING OF PHYSIOTHERAPY EQUIPMENT ON RATE CONTRACT BASIS
Online Bids through **e-Tender portal (https://tendersodisha.gov.in)** are invited from eligible bidders for Supply, Installation & commissioning of Equipment as per the particulars mentioned below :

Sl.	Bid Reference No.	Item Name	Bid Document Cost inclusive of GST (Rs.)
1.	OSMCL/2023-24/ PHYSIOTHERAPY_EQP/ 15	Tender for Supply, installation & commissioning of Physiotherapy Equipment on Rate Contract Basis	Rs.5,900/-

Sl. No.	Particulars	Date and time	
1.	Date & time of release of bid	01/09/2023, 5 PM	
2.	Date & time of **Pre-Bid** Meeting	07/09/2023, 11.30 AM Venue : Conference Hall, Odisha State Medical Corporation Ltd., In front of Ram Mandir, Convent Square, Unit-III, Bhubaneswar	
3.	Date & time of Online bid submission	Start Date & Time	End Date & Time
		16/09/2023, 3 PM	03/10/2023, 5 PM
4.	Date & time of online Technical Bid Opening	06/10/2023, 3 PM	
5.	Date of opening of Price Bid	To be informed to the qualified bidders	

The bid document with all information relating to the bidding process including cost of bid document,Prequalification criteria and terms & conditions are available in the websites: **www.osmcl.nic.in** and **https://tendersodisha.gov.in** . The Authority reserves the right to accept / reject any part thereof or all the bids without assigning any reason thereof.
CAD-1926: Sd/- **Managing Director, OSMCL**
OIPR-10112/11/0023/2324

Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation, Pimpri, Pune – 411018
CIVIL PROJECT DEPARTMENT
E-Tender Notice No. 39/03/2023-2024
Appointment of a Private Entity For Design, Built, Finance, Operate and Transfer of Multi-Level Parking Cum Commercial Development Facility in Pimpri Chinchwad.
PCMC intends to appoint a Private Entity for Design, Built, Finance, Operate and Transfer of Multi-Level Parking Cum Commercial Development Facility in Pimpri Chinchwad for following locations:

S. No.	Location	Reservation Number	Total Plot Area (Sq.m)	Type of Parking Proposed
1.	Old vegetable market near Pimpri flyover	136	5600	Ramp/ Mechanized
2.	Parking near Croma Showroom, Pimpri	117	2487.15	Ramp/ Mechanized
3.	Adjacent to Chinchwad railway station	186	3910.53	Ramp/ Mechanized

In that context, PCMC hereby invites interested agencies having experience as envisaged in the Request for Proposal (RFP) document to submit their proposal. Interested agencies can download the RFP document from the website **mahatenders.gov.in**
In case of any technical problem related to the tender submission, the same can be referred to the NIC email support at **eproc@nic.in** or on Telephone Numbers 0120-4200462, 0120-4001002, 0120-4001005, 0120-627787.
Sd/-
(Pramod Ombhase)
Joint City Engineer,
Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation,
Pimpri, Pune – 411018.
Advt No. 273
No.Civil/14/WS/273/2023
Date-01/09/2023

Odisha State Medical Corporation Limited (OSMCL)
In front of Ram Mandir, Convent Square, Unit-III, Bhubaneswar-751 001
Tel.: (0674) 2380608; Website: www.osmcl.nic.in, Email: proc.osmcl.od@nic.in
Assuring Quality, Saving Lives
Notification No.9123/OSMCL/2023 Date : 01.09.2023
NOTICE INVITING E-Tender for Supply, Installation & Commissioning of Biochemistry, Microbiology & Pathology Equipment with their Reagents
Online Bids through **e-Tender portal (https://tendersodisha.gov.in)** are invited from eligible bidders for Supply, Installation & commissioning of Equipment as per the particulars mentioned below :

Sl.	Bid Reference No.	Item Name	Bid Document Cost inclusive of GST (Rs.)
1.	OSMCL/2023-24/ Biochemistry_Microbiology & Pathology_EQP/18	Tender for Supply, Installation & Commissioning of Biochemistry, Microbiology & Pathology Equipment with their Reagents	Rs.5,900/-

Sl. No.	Particulars	Date and time	
1.	Date & time of release of bid	02/09/2023, 5 PM	
2.	Date & time of **Pre-Bid** Meeting	11/09/2023, 11.30 AM Venue : Conference Hall, Odisha State Medical Corporation Ltd., In front of Ram Mandir, Convent Square, Unit-III, Bhubaneswar	
3.	Date & time of Online bid submission	Start Date & Time	End Date & Time
		16/09/2023, 3 PM	05/10/2023, 5 PM
4.	Date & time of online Technical Bid Opening	06/10/2023, 3 PM	
5.	Date of opening of Price Bid	To be informed to the qualified bidders	

The bid document with all information relating to the bidding process including cost of bid document,Prequalification criteria and terms & conditions are available in the websites: **www.osmcl.nic.in** and **https://tendersodisha.gov.in** . The Authority reserves the right to accept / reject any part thereof or all the bids without assigning any reason thereof.
CAD-1935: Sd/- **Managing Director, OSMCL**
OIPR-10112/11/0021/2324

INBRIEF

Varsity officials must execute only V-Cs' orders, says Bose

West Bengal Governor C.V. Ananda Bose has issued a notification to all university officials of the State stating that they are not "mandated" to take orders directly from the government. The officers of the university are to execute the orders issued by the V-C (Vice-Chancellor) and they are not mandated to take orders directly from the government or to execute it without the knowledge and consent of the V-C," a notification by the office of the Governor said. Earlier this week, a notification by the Raj Bhavan stated that the Governor has decided to discharge the duties of interim V-Cs of all the varsities where full-time V-Cs are yet to be appointed.

'Nashik bandh' by Maratha outfits gets mixed response

A call for a 'Nashik bandh' by Maratha organisations in Maharashtra, over a police lathi-charge on agitators demanding a quota for the community in Jalna, got a mixed response on Sunday. The bandh call was made by the 'Sakal Maratha Samaj' and 'Maratha Kranti Morcha'. On Friday, an agitation seeking reservation for the Maratha community turned violent at Antarwali Sarathi village in Jalna district. Several people, including dozens of police personnel, were injured. The police lathi-charged the mob and fired tear gas shells after they allegedly refused to let authorities shift a man on hunger strike as part of the quota stir to hospital. PTI

Bank credit outstanding to real estate at record high: RBI

Bank credit to housing as well as commercial real estate witnessed a nearly 38% annual growth in July, taking the loan outstanding to the realty sector to a record ₹28 lakh crore, as per RBI data. It is evident from the Reserve Bank's loan outstanding data as well as property consultants data on housing sales and new launches across major cities that the real estate sector is moving at a fast pace. The credit outstanding in housing (including priority sector housing) rose 37.4% annually in July crossing ₹24.28 lakh crore, according to the RBI's data on 'Sectoral Deployment of Bank Credit - July 2023'. PTI

Use Assembly building for corporate tourism: Minister

Uttarakhand Tourism Minister Satpal Maharaj requested the government to use the Gairsain Assembly building for "corporate tourism". The request surprised Assembly Speaker Ritu Khanduri, and she wondered whether the State's Assembly building, which was built at an estimated cost of ₹150 crore, can be used for other purpose. Talking to *The Hindu*, Mr. Maharaj said that the Assembly building has been used 10 to 12 times since it was constructed. "The environment is so good that everyone who visited told me that concentration and motivation gets doubled," he said. Responding to the request, Ms. Khanduri said that she would form a committee to see the nitty-gritty of the proposal.

Top naval commanders to review the maritime security scene

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Top commanders of the Navy will carry out a comprehensive review of India's maritime security challenges and ways to enhance tri-services synergy at a three-day conclave beginning on Monday amid China's burgeoning military posturing in the Indian Ocean region.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, National Security Adviser Ajit Doval, Chief of Defence Staff Gen. Anil Chauhan, Army chief Gen. Manoj Pande and Air Chief Marshal V.R. Chaudhari are scheduled to interact with the naval commanders at the conference to be held in Delhi, officials said.

The conference and the "embedded interactions" with the NSA and chiefs of the Army and the Air Force would also be utilised to analyse the operational environment, deliberate on the issue of tri-services synergy and assess the readiness of maritime forces, the Navy said.

Aditya-L1 'healthy', in new orbit: ISRO

ISTRAC in Bengaluru injected the mission into an earth-bound orbit; it will stay on such orbits for 16 days; next move planned for tomorrow

Hemanth C.S.
BENGALURU

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on Sunday performed the first earth-bound firing to raise the orbit of Aditya-L1, India's first solar observatory mission, which was launched on Saturday.

The ISRO Telemetry, Tracking and Command Network Work (ISTRAC) in Bengaluru performed the manoeuvre.

The satellite was "healthy" and operating nominally, the ISRO posted on the X platform (formerly Twitter). The new orbit attained was 245 km x 22,459 km.

The next manoeuvre was scheduled for around 3 a.m. on Tuesday.

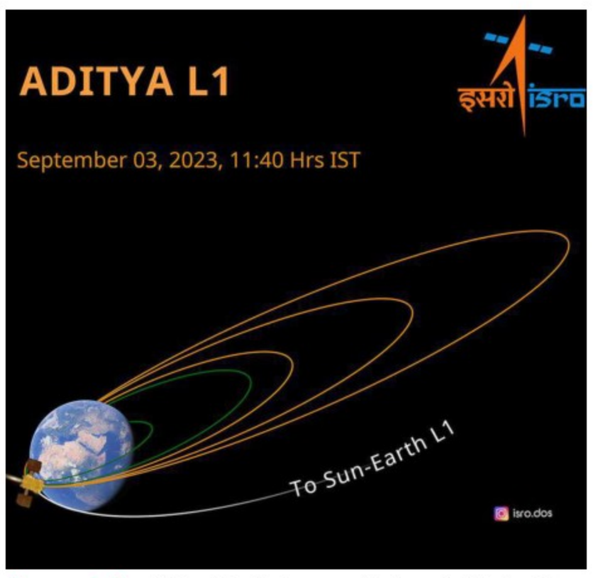
After the successful launch, the ISRO said that Aditya-L1 started generating power as the solar panels were deployed.

Aditya-L1 will stay on earth-bound orbits for 16 days, during which it will undergo five manoeuvres to gain the necessary velocity for its journey.

Subsequently, Aditya-L1 undergoes a Trans-Lagrangian1 insertion manoeuvre, marking the beginning of its 110-day trajectory to the destination around the L1 Lagrange point.

Upon arrival at the L1 point, another manoeuvre binds Aditya-L1 to an orbit around the L1, a balanced gravitational location between the earth and the sun.

The satellite spends its whole mission life orbiting around L1 in an irregularly shaped orbit in a plane roughly perpendicular to the line joining the earth and the sun.



New mysteries: Aditya-L1 will stay on earth-bound orbits for 16 days, during which it will undergo five manoeuvres. ISRO

'Study Australia Fair' begins in Chandigarh, will be held in 5 cities

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

As of June, 98,000 Indian students are studying in Australia; India is the second largest source of international students for Australia

The 'Study Australia Fair', an annual event to attract Indian students to Australia, will begin in Chandigarh on Monday.

Organised by the Australian Trade and Investment Commission (Austrade), the Australian government's agency for international trade promotion and attracting investment, the fair will be held in Delhi, Ahmedabad, Hyderabad, Bengaluru, and Chennai.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Senior Trade and Investment Commissioner of Austrade Monica Kennedy said some 25 educational institutions from across the country would participate in the fair.

"The visibility of Australia as an education provider is high at the moment. That is the main difference from last year's fair. We have 25 educational institutions coming in. Australia provides opportunities for prolonged stay and employment opportunities are also high," Dr. Kennedy said, adding that Australian universities have improved their rankings in the latest QS rankings.

As of June, 98,000 Indian students are studying in Australia. India is Australia's second largest source of international students. "Australia-India bilateral bond is very strong and the number of students is increasing," Dr. Kennedy added.

Austrade is promising that there will be courses in Australian universities in which Australia and India have common interests. "We are offering courses in cyber, future tech, future materials, energy, etc," she said, adding that individual institutions are providing scholarships.

"The Australian government is also working on a programme for scholarships for Indian students," Dr. Kennedy added.

Centre's DIKSHA e-education platform to offer AI help

Maitri Porecha
NEW DELHI

The National e-Governance Division (NeGD) of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) is set to integrate Personalised Adaptive Learning (PAL) into its existing Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing (DIKSHA) platform. The PAL's software-based approach is expected to allow each student to have an individualised learning experience over the course of the curriculum based on their unique needs and abilities.

DIKSHA, which comes under the Education Ministry, provides e-content for schools by an online portal and a mobile application. It has embedded assistive technologies for learners with visual or hearing challenges. However, DIKSHA is a static content repository.

DIKSHA features digitised National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) textbooks used by national and State Boards. Apart from this, DIKSHA hosts 2.43 lakh contributions by 11,624 academics by way of teaching videos, explainers, and practice questions. Currently, all these contributions are scattered across the platform.

The NCERT has sought the MeitY's expertise in facilitating the PAL's integration into DIKSHA. In an example of how it works, if a student of Class 9 is learning the Pythagoras theorem and makes a calculation mistake, the AI learning system flags it and loops the student back to a basic video of how to make the calculation.

In some States, private players are already administering the PAL, which works on AI or Artificial Intelligence, but budget constraints have been an obstacle.

Massive exercise

Building the PAL is a massive exercise. Content from across subjects will have to be categorised and different chunks will have to be tagged. New content may also have to be created.

"Tagging of content is important to create learning loops, where, say, a student faces difficulty at a certain tag, then supportive material offering an explanation of the tagged concept can be provided," a senior MeitY official told *The Hindu*.

The official added that school students found chemistry, mathematics, and physics for Classes 9 to 12 to be the most difficult subjects, and the intention is to start building the PAL for these classes to begin with.

With nearly 35 lakh students dropping out in Class 10 and ineligible to qualify for Class 11 every year, the Education Ministry wants to adopt digital learning with a focus on improving learning outcomes and school retention.

The PAL's software-based approach is expected to allow each student to have an individualised learning experience. ISTOCKPHOTO

Experiments in States

Andhra Pradesh has signed contracts with three privately owned edtech companies – Reliance Jio Platform's start-up Embibe, ConveGenius, and Mindspark – for training teachers to use IT applications in the classroom, provide analytics for remedial learning, and help students improve their conceptual understanding.

"We are currently implementing the PAL in 20 schools of Prakasam district for Classes 6 to 9," a senior Jio Platforms official said.

"Building the core tech platform may cost close to ₹2-3 crore, and then developing and tagging of content will cost another ₹20 crore. The streaming costs incurred for data stored in cloud-based servers is recurring and depends on the usage. If, say, 40 crore school-going students in India stream data for two hours in a day or a week, the costs will run into several hundred crores," the MeitY official added.

In Assam, for instance, the PAL was adapted in 200 schools from Classes 6 to 10. Each school had nearly 200 students, and Embibe provided 10 devices per school. "After implementing the project for two years, Assam discontinued it, citing lack of funds," the Jio official said.

Similarly, in Haryana, after floating the tender, the State government said Embibe's quote for streaming content was too high, and the process of adopting PAL came to a standstill.

"For implementing the PAL project in the whole State, we had estimated a yearly streaming cost of ₹27 crore, considering on an average one child in a week sees four videos of 15 minutes on the platform. This cost was felt to be very high by the government," the Jio official said.

Poll-bound State Madhya Pradesh, too, is mulling over introducing PAL for students from Classes 6 to 10 on its flagship State education portal, the CM-RISE. Apart from PAL, MeitY is also considering the introduction of voice commands in DIKSHA 2.0 as a part of AI-enabled learning. "Just like ChatGPT, the student can access summaries of chapters by giving voice commands and so on," the MeitY official said.

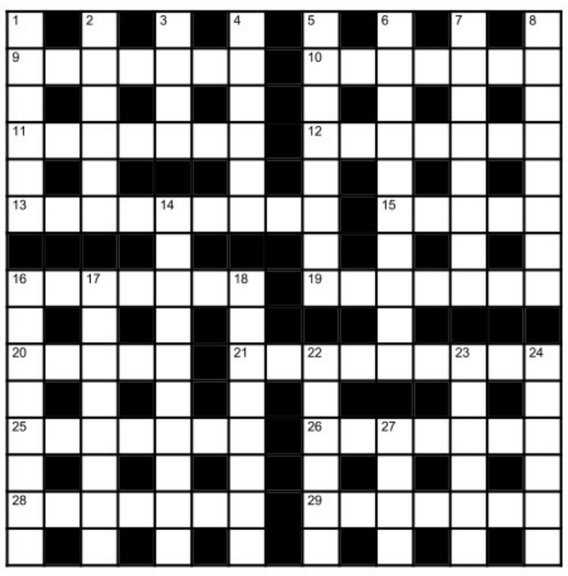
"The process of making PAL is time consuming and it will still take three to four years to develop the tech and roll it out for use," the source added. The NeGD will float an Expression of Interest to assess the market for edtech companies that can help launch PAL and possibly integrate it with DIKSHA 2.0.

TH CROSSWORD + 13961

(set by Arden)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

9 Firm as a coastal city in India is tense (7)
10 Cancer may develop around a dark spot that's come up (7)
11 Harry Ford, one is ruined (4,3)
12 Can cast ballot by an unknown entity? (7)
13 Benevolent customer with unmarried girl in Irish county (9)
15 Increased generally - being in a kind of rush (5)
16 Friend accepts Rosa's fancy sunshade (7)
19 Best tiger, head and tail like another cat (7)
20 Second choice is hogwash (5)
21 Girl had a name, returned to the game (9)
25 Paper work for an ex-president, one will catch up (7)
26 Craving for booze after half a decade (7)
28 Foreign corporations leaving parts of river (7)
29 Rising a point? Rise (7)

Down

1 ...also, to enter, a little tough (6)
2 Tom cut the top off the plant (6)
3 Starts coming as left foot is a little lower (4)
4 Like soaring to pick bird bones (6)
5 Stone mats they spread (8)
6 Terrible place, no pets to play with in Dardanelles strait (10)
7 I need to swap job with him in the White House (3,5)
8 Jagged edge bordering perhaps many a moon (8)
14 Rolled over Dallas country (2,8)
16 Sit before I dress for God (8)
17 Stopped one in Germany entering fancy diner (6,2)
18 No pets allowed in plasterboard - change that to pet (8)
22 Strong wind, one blowing from south gives you lead (6)
23 Part of cellar, de rigueur in the kitchen (6)
24 Conflict as men become sex crazy finally (6)
27 Old Bob Wood's band (4)

SUDOKU

			9			7		5
				2			8	4
		5	8					
8		4	1	7			5	
	3						2	
	5			9	4	1		8
					9	3		
6	4			3				
3		2			7			

No.SS5909 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

Solution to previous puzzle

S	O	C	I	A	L		C	A	N	N	A	B	I	S
C		O		F			X		O		A		N	
A	N	N	E	A	L		F	L	A	M	E	N	C	O
L		D		R		H		E		A		T		T
L	O	O	S	E	N	E	D		I	N	F	A	N	T
O		N		W		C		G		I		M		Y
P	R	E	S	E	N	T	T	E	N	S	E			
S		D		L		A		R		A		W		D
			U	L	T	R	A	M	O	N	T	A	N	E
A		T		T		E		A		I		T		T
R	E	A	S	O	N		A	N	I	S	E	T	T	E
A		S		A		I		E		L		H		S
B	E	S	T	R	I	D	E		M	A	H	O	U	T
I		E		M		E			N		U		E	
C	O	L	E	S	L	A	W		A	D	O	R	E	D

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

8	7	9	3	5	1	2	4	6
6	3	5	9	2	4	1	8	7
4	2	1	7	6	8	9	5	3
7	4	6	2	9	5	3	1	8
5	9	8	1	7	3	4	6	2
3	1	2	4	8	6	5	7	9
1	8	3	6	4	9	7	2	5
9	5	7	8	1	2	6	3	4
2	6	4	5	3	7	8	9	1

FAITH

Sankatahara Chaturthi

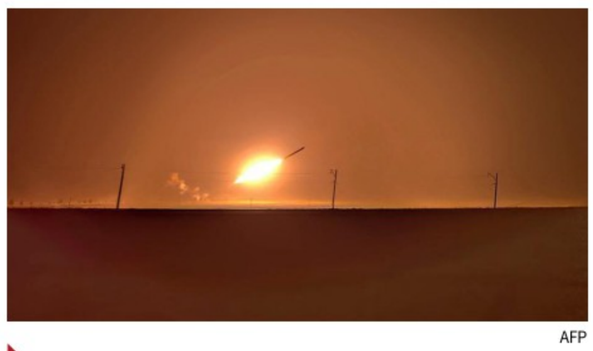
It is common for people to face obstacles in their lives due to various causes, ranging from one's horoscope to karma from the past. The Sankatahara Chaturthi is the day when one can appeal to Lord Ganesha directly to remove all such obstacles and help one realise one's goals in this life, said Thiruvidaimarudur Bramhasri Nidhiswara Shrowthigal.

Although the Sankatahara Chaturthi occurs every month, the Krishna paksha chaturthi as this is known, occurring in the month of Shravana is very special, wherein a devotee's prayers are answered. This usually occurs in the Tamil month of Aavani and its efficacy is mentioned in many ancient texts. Lord Siva recounted its benefits to Parvati. Lord Krishna expounded on its merits to Yudhishtira when the latter sought such a reprieve. Krishna Himself had observed the same when His son was abducted by an asura. Murugan (Karthikeya), the brother of Ganesha, likewise observed the *vrath*, which ends only when the moon rises and is sighted by the observer.

One has to rise early, decorate the idol of Ganesha, chanting the slokas dedicated to Him. Observing stringent fast through the day, health permitting, is also recommended. Milk, sandalwood paste, flowers and druva grass are to be offered with utmost devotion.

SEOUL

North Korea test-fires missiles as part of mock 'nuclear attack'



AFP

North Korea staged a "simulated tactical nuclear attack" drill at the weekend with mock atomic warheads attached to two long-range cruise missiles that were test-fired into the ocean. State media said the operation on Saturday was a "counteraction drill" in response to the joint military activity by U.S. and South Korean forces. AFP

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's interim PM Kakar terms May 9 violence 'attempted coup'

AFP

Pakistan's caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar has termed the May 9 violence by supporters of former premier Imran Khan "an attempted coup and civil war" that targeted Army chief Gen. Asim Munir. Kakar, however, denied that revenge was a motive behind taking action against the perpetrators of the violence. PTI

TEL AVIV

Eritrean migrants behind clashes should be deported: Netanyahu

AFP

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said he wants Eritrean migrants involved in Saturday's violent clash in Tel Aviv to be deported and has ordered a plan to remove all of the country's African migrants. Under international law, Israel cannot forcibly send migrants back to a country where their life may be at risk. AP

WAD MADANI

Activists say air strike in Sudan's Khartoum kills 20 civilians

AFP

Residents of Khartoum awoke on Sunday to artillery and rocket fire, hours after an air strike in the city's south killed 20 civilians which include two children, say activists. They warned that more fatalities went unrecorded, as "bodies could not be moved to hospital as they were severely burned or torn to pieces in the bombing". AFP

Iran sentences two women journalists to jail time

Agence France-Presse
TEHRAN

Two female Iranian journalists will spend around a month behind bars as part of a three-year partly suspended prison sentence for "conspiracy" and "collusion", local media reported on Sunday.

Under the sentence, Negin Bagheri and Elnaz Mohammadi will serve one-fortieth of the term, or less than a month, in prison, their lawyer Amir Raisian told the reformist *Ham Mihan* newspaper, where Ms. Mohammadi works.

"The remaining period is suspended over five years," during which time they will be required to take "a professional ethics training" and "prohibited from leaving the country," the lawyer added.

Mr. Raisian did not elaborate on whether the verdict can be appealed, and the report did not detail the allegations against the reporters.

Ms. Mohammadi's sister, Elahe, who also works for *Ham Mihan*, has since September 2022 been in prison after reporting on the funeral of Mahsa Amini, 22, who died in police custody.

The death on September 16, 2022 of Amini, an Iranian Kurd, came after her arrest for an alleged breach of the Islamic republic's dress code, triggering months-long nationwide protests.

Ahead of talks on grain deal, Russia attacks Ukraine port

NATO member Romania condemns the attack which took place on its border; Moscow recruits 2,30,000 people into Army since start of year

Agence France-Presse
KYIV

Russian drones targeted Ukraine's southern Odesa region in the early hours of Sunday, with Moscow hitting a Danube port on the border with NATO member Romania in an attack condemned by Bucharest.

Moscow has hit Ukrainian port infrastructure on the Black Sea and on the Danube for weeks, since exiting a key deal that allowed the safe passage of ships carrying grain.

The attack came on the eve of a summit in Russia between Vladimir Putin and Turkish leader Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who hopes to revive the grain deal.

The Odesa region attacks also came as Kyiv has claimed some successes in its counter-offensive on the southern front this week.

Ukraine said Russia had hit the Odesa region with a barrage of Iranian-made Shahed drones, saying it downed 22 of them.

But Kyiv also said that some of the drones hit the Danube area, saying that at least two persons were wounded in attacks on "civilian industrial" infrastructure.

Damage control: A firefighter works at a site hit by Russia's drone attacks in Ukraine's Odesa on Sunday. REUTERS

The Russian Army said it had targeted "fuel storage" facilities in the Ukrainian port of Reni, which lies on the Danube river that separates Ukraine from Romania.

Moscow has targeted the Danube ports of Reni and Ismail – both near Romania and across the war-torn country from fighting hotspots – several times over the last few weeks.

Reni – which also lies close to Moldova – is a sea and river port and important transport hub.

Bucharest's Defence Ministry said the attacks were "unjustified".

It also stressed that the Moscow drone attacks did not "generate any direct military threat to the national territory or territorial waters of Romania."

Neighbouring Moldova called the attack "brutal."

The Odesa region attacks came as Kyiv reported some successes on the southern front of its counteroffensive this week.

Russia has not announced another mobilisation, seen as an unpopular measure, but has led an active campaign to attract more men into the military as its Ukraine offensive drives on into a 19th month.

Ex-President and Security Council chairman Dmitry Medvedev said on Sunday that Moscow had recruited 2,30,000 people into the Army since the start of the year.

G-20 meet, visits by Lavrov, Macron add to the diplomatic buzz in Dhaka

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

The first fortnight of September is appearing hectic in Dhaka's diplomatic calendar with multiple high-profile visits and agreements that are being scheduled. The series is expected to start with the arrival of Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov to Dhaka on September 7. This will be followed by the visit of French President Emmanuel Macron on September 11. The two visits are unique as a French President is visiting Dhaka after nearly 33 years and Mr. Lavrov is the first Foreign Minister of Moscow to visit Bangladesh in its history. In between, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is due to arrive in New Delhi in the afternoon of September 8 and participate in the G-20 meetings where Bangladesh is among the "guest countries".

Shoring suppport: Sheikh Hasina may hold a bilateral meeting with Narendra Modi on the sidelines of the G-20 summit. FILE PHOTO

Russia's state energy company ROSATOM is building Bangladesh's first nuclear power plant in Rooppur and the visit of Mr. Lavrov has raised expectations that the power plant is going to be completed soon. The 2015 contract signed with ROSATOM was Bangladesh's biggest agreement worth at least $12.65 billion. Out of the total amount, Russia is known to have funded nearly 90%. However, repayment has been facing a few issues as Russia continues to face international sanctions because of the campaign in Ukraine.

Sources have indicated Dhaka's willingness for a bilateral meeting between Ms. Hasina and Prime Minister Narendra Modi during her stay in New Delhi, while maintaining that she may not visit the Sufi shrine in Ajmer as she has to head back home to welcome French President Emmanuel Macron. .

Both the visits and Ms. Hasina's presence in Delhi during the G-20 are being seen in the context of the upcoming election that is likely to be announced in October. With deepening ties in multiple world capitals, Ms. Hasina is clearly sending a message to her political opponents such as the BNP which has demanded that polls should be held under a caretaker government. Ms. Hasina has so far rejected that demand.

Colombo mulls converting Adani power project to a G2G deal: Sri Lankan media

Meera Srinivasan
COLOMBO

In a Cabinet memorandum last month, Sri Lanka's Energy Minister has sought to convert the agreement with Adani Green Energy Limited – for the execution of renewable energy projects in the island's Northern Province – to a government-to-government deal, according to Sri Lankan media reports.

Leading Colombo-based weekend newspaper *The Sunday Times* reported on September 3, 2023: "A $400 million project with India's Adani Green Energy Limited for a 500-megawatt power project in Mannar has been elevated to be on a Government-to-Government basis," based on a recent Cabinet memorandum put forward by Power and Energy Minister Kanchana Wijesekera.

The shift, local media reports suggested, was on account of a legal requirement. *The Hindu* was unable to reach the Minister, and is yet to hear back on its message requesting him for comment.

Gautam Adani

Meanwhile, the portal *Newsfirst* on August 31, 2023, reported that some political actors had raised concern over "the decision to award India's Adani Group with an on-grid renewable energy development project in Mannar and Pooneryn, by considering it as a government-to-government arrangement". The news portal referred to the Cabinet paper dated August 14, 2023.

The reports coincide with renewed international media scrutiny of the Adani Group, following an investigation conducted by the Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project (OCCRP), a global network of journalists. Last week, publications including *The Guardian* and *Financial Times* reported that the Adani family had secretly invested in the company's shares, sparking a fresh controversy months after U.S.-based research firm Hindenburg accused the Group's chief Gautam Adani of pulling off the "largest con in corporate history".

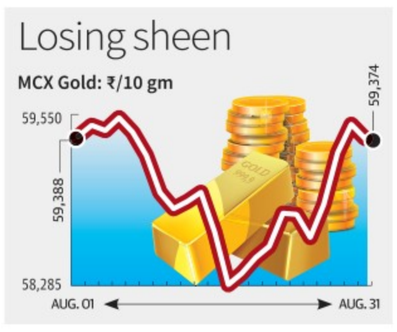
Green chit

Sri Lanka's Board of Investment cleared the Group's involvement in the $442 million renewable energy project in February 2023, even as the company's stocks crashed in the wake of the Hindenburg report published the previous month. In an interview with *The Hindu* in March 2023, Foreign Minister Ali Sabry said Colombo was confident about the future of the Adani projects on the island.

However, no final decision has been made in regard to converting the energy project agreement with Adani Green into an official bilateral deal yet, *Newsfirst* said, quoting State Minister of Power and Energy, Indika Anuruddha Herath. The proposal would be directed to the Public Utilities Commission of Sri Lanka, before the Attorney General's directives are obtained.

Further, Cabinet decisions published last month showed no reference to the Adani project, which earlier sparked controversy within Sri Lanka, when the Opposition accused the Group of making a "back-door entry", and India of "pressuring" the neighbouring island.

During his visit to India in July, President Ranil Wickremesinghe also held talks with Mr. Adani, reviewing the Group's projects across Sri Lanka's energy and port sectors. Following the meeting, Power and Energy Minister Wijesekara said the energy project in Sri Lanka's Northern Province would be completed by January 2025. In addition to the energy projects, the Adani Group is also building a port terminal at the Colombo Port, with a $700 million investment.



Gold, silver end August on low note

PRECIOUSMETALS

Precious metals' prices are still stuck in a broad range and a breach of the upper or lower end of this range would influence the next big move in prices. Until then, volatile price action is likely to prevail

B. Krishnakumar

After recording a strong close in July, precious metals lost their sheen in August, with both gold and silver closing the month on a weak note. The strengthening of the U.S. dollar along with the expectations that the U.S. Federal Reserve will keep interest rates elevated in the near future, played a key role in keeping the precious metal prices under check.

As a result, Comex gold closed 2.1% lower at $1,965.9 at the end of August. Comex silver posted a relatively better performance in August. The white metal closed 0.6% lower to end the month at $24.81 per ounce.

Mirroring the trend in the global markets, MCX gold closed on a negative note at ₹59,374 representing a fall of 1.1% in August. MCX silver declined 1.58% last month to settle at ₹75,682 per kilogram.

The price of Comex gold is still confined to the range of $1,910-2,010 that was mentioned last month. A breakout from this range would set the tone for the next directional move. A move past the upper end of the range at $2,010 would have positive implications and could push the Comex gold price to the next target of $2,040-2,050. On the contrary, a fall below $1,910 would be a sign of weakness and could push the price lower to $1,850-1,860.

Similar to Comex gold, Comex silver too is yet to breakout from the range of $22.5-25.5 range mentioned last month. A breakout from this range would influence the next major move in silver. A move past $25.7 would be a sign of strength and silver price could then head to the upside target of $26.8-27.5. A fall below $22.3 could trigger a slide to $21-21.2.

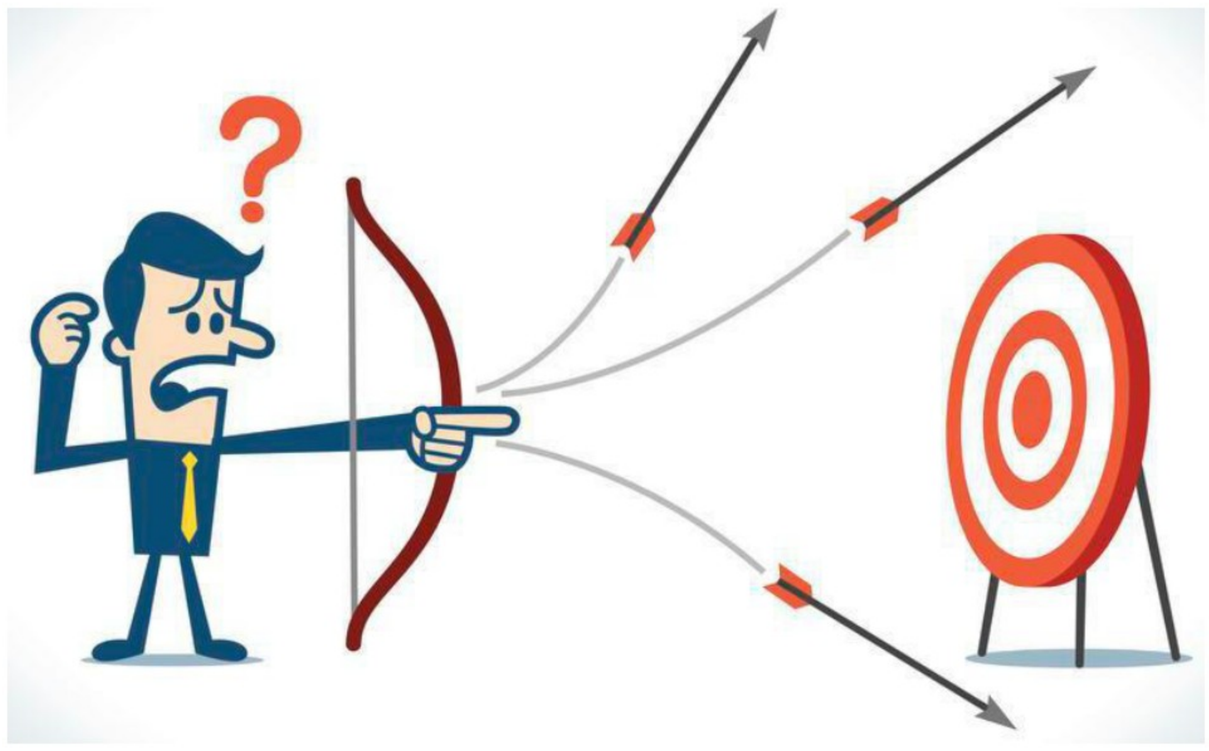
Mirroring the global trend, MCX gold and silver price too remained range-bound in August. MCX gold has to move above the upper end of the range at ₹60,200 or fall below the lower end of the range at ₹57,500 to trigger a strong directional move. Above ₹60,200, the price could head to the next higher target of ₹62,500-63,000 while a fall below ₹57,500 could push the price lower to ₹55,500-56,000.

MCX silver too was confined to a range in August. A breakout from the present range of ₹69,500-78,500 would determine the next big move in silver. Above ₹78,500, the price could head to ₹81,000-82,500 zone, while a fall below ₹69,400 could push the price to ₹64,500-65,000.

To summarise, precious metals' prices are still stuck in a broad range and a breach of the upper or lower end of this range would influence the next big move in prices. Until then, range-bound and volatile price action is likely to prevail.

(The author is a Chennai-based analyst/trader. The views and opinion featured in this column is based on the analysis of short-term price movement in gold and silver futures at COMEX & Multi Commodity Exchange of India. This is not meant to be a trading or investment advice.)

Send queries on personal finance and investing to the moneywise@thehindu.co.in ID. Our experts in personal finance will respond to select queries, but will not give specific recommendations for investment in a particular mutual fund, share or fixed deposit.



The Indian investor's brush with the 'impossible trinity'

India faces an intricate economic jigsaw, challenging policymakers and investors. Navigating prudently with diversification is the key to enduring this financial storm

TRIPLE WHAMMY

Anand Srinivasan
Sashwath Swaminathan

John Marcus Fleming's and Robert Alexander Mundell's "impossible trinity", better known as the "trilemma," presents a poignant picture for most monetary policymakers.

The concept stipulates that a country cannot have 1. Free capital flow (no capital controls), 2. A fixed/stable exchange rate, and 3. Independent monetary policy, all at the same time.

An able policymaker can, at best, achieve two of these three objectives at any given time.

The Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) currently faces the problem of trying to overcome the "impossible trinity".

Over the past year, India has tried to maintain a relatively independent stance from the tightening monetary trend.

The rate hikes in India lag well behind the U.S. Federal Reserve's push to raise rates. India remains reluctant to increase rates due to the fear of causing a recession (possibly due to the next round of elections in 2024).

A lower interest rate arbitrage signifies a flight of capital back to the U.S. (the world's reserve currency) and an impending depreciation of the Indian rupee.

The foreign exchange reserves currently held stem from 'hot money' (from FIIs investing in domestic debt or equity markets to cash in on arbitrage opportunities) and corporate borrowing (for example, Adani Green Energy, Vedanta, etc.), not money earned from trade.

The "impossible trinity" tells us that if India wishes to maintain stable rates and exercise independence in monetary policy, it would have to restrict capital flows.

Through fiscal and monetary policy measures, India has tried to backstop the slide of the INR against the U.S. dollar through half-hearted capital control efforts.

Hasty move

A hastily implemented import ban on laptops, tablets and other electronic goods, which later turned into a licence-based import policy (due to a lack of domestic manufacturers and thus supply), has been enacted to curb imports and encourage domestic manufacturing. However, these electronic goods play an essential role in the lives of many Indians and are, therefore, a relatively inelastic good.

The policy might end up instigating supply-pull inflation rather than preventing capital from flowing out of the country. Moreover, there has also been an increase in the tax rate on outbound remittances from 5% to 20%, further working to curtail capital outflow. Meanwhile, China, India's largest trade partner, has been suffering symptoms of deflation, leading to rate cuts and a depreciating yuan.

The Chinese consumer price index fell by 0.3% in July year-on-year. Additionally, the INR has appreciated by 4% against the Chinese yuan. A cheaper yuan compared with an expensive rupee makes China's exports more competitive in the global markets and threatens to flood India's domestic market with more affordable Chinese export goods.

> Foreign Institutional Investors are offloading Indian debt due to the absence of profitable arbitrage opportunities, further stressing the rupee's position

The increase in imports in India from China due to a stronger rupee will likely place enormous downward pressure on the rupee. Capital controls (unless draconian) can seldom withstand pressure on the rupee from different macroeconomic factors for too long a period.

The global monetary tightening regime suggests the onset of a "funding winter". The excess liquidity sloshing around in the U.S. markets seems to be drying up with the fall of SPACs (Special Purpose Acquisition Companies) and other highly leveraged financial instruments. Moreover, with the U.S. interest rates reaching a 22-year high, the attractiveness of equity investments in emerging markets like India wanes. The inevitable repercussion is the cessation of "sticky" equity investments.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) are offloading Indian debt due to the absence of profitable arbitrage opportunities, further stressing the rupee's position.

Legendary investor George Soros had famously bet against the British pound, predicting a similar impending depreciation. The rupee's depreciation seems inevitable, and attempts at resisting it seem futile at best and harmful at worst.

For the astute Indian investor, an impending depreciation in the INR and a complex macroeconomic situation present a dual-pronged opportunity. Firstly, pivoting to domestic companies predominantly earning in dollars (IT and Pharma) would shield the investor from the impending rupee depreciation.

These companies stand to gain as the rupee weakens, offering potentially attractive returns (weaker the currency, stronger the exports). Secondly, diversifying investments abroad becomes paramount, considering the trilemma's implications and the looming funding winter. Over the next 18 months, hedging against domestic markets by investing in international assets can be protective.

The returns from investing in the U.S. markets are twofold: 1) the general market returns from equities in the U.S. and 2) An INR-USD arbitrage gain, which would materialise as the rupee depreciates against the dollar. India faces an intricate economic jigsaw, challenging policymakers, and investors. Navigating prudently with diversification is the key to enduring this financial storm.

(Anand Srinivasan is a consultant, Sashwath Swaminathan is a research assistant at Aionion Investment Services)

ASKUS

N. Sree Kanth

Q On 26th September 2023, I'll be completing 80 years. Please advise whether the I-T rules linking PAN with Aadhar will be applicable to a super senior after this date.
R. RAMASAMY

A As per CBDT circular F. No. 370142/14/2022-TPL dated on 28th March 2023, a person who has failed to intimate the Aadhaar number in accordance with section 139AA of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 (the Act), read with rule 114AAA, shall face the consequences of the PAN becoming inoperative. The consequences of PAN becoming inoperative shall not be applicable to those persons who have been exempted from linking PAN-Aadhaar, which are as follows vide Department of Revenue Notification no. 37/2017 dated 11th May 2017: i) NRIs
ii) Not a citizen of India iii) Age more than 80 years as on date iv) State of residence is Assam, Meghalaya or J&K.

Q I am 78 years old, a central govt. family pensioner. My question is: Can a family pensioner be allowed to deduct standard deduction ₹3,00,000 from the taxable income from total income ie., the family pension and savings bank FD interest before tax calculation.
BHAMA SUBRAMANIAN

A As you are 78 years old, the basic exemption limit is ₹3,00,000. Family pension and savings/FD interest received by you up to ₹3,00,000 will not be taxed. Additionally, for senior citizens deduction of up to ₹50,000 under Section 80-TTB is allowed from the interest earned from savings/FD from banks, post offices and co-operative banks. Further, under Section 57, family pension received by the surviving family members is deductible by ₹15,000 or 1/3rd of the pension received, whichever is less. To conclude, your taxable income will be arrived at only after availing the above deductions and the taxable income will be first reduced by the basic exemption limit applicable for senior citizens while computing the tax payable. The reply to your query is based on the old tax regime.

Q If I invest part of my PF accumulation on retirement by opening a Post Office savings scheme under SCSS (for ₹30 lakh) and MIS (for ₹9 lakh) in my spouse's name, will my spouse have to pay I-T on the sum of ₹30+9 lakh? I will also use my PF accumulation to open an SCSS and MIS for the same amount.
GILBERT DSOUZA

A Under the clubbing provisions of the I-T Act, 1961, as provided in Section 64, any asset transferred by an individual to his/her spouse (directly or indirectly) otherwise than for adequate consideration or in connection with an agreement to live apart, any income arising from such transferred asset is deemed to be the income of the transferor. In other words, the returns accruing from the monies you transfer to your wife (directly or indirectly) will be taxed in your hands and not in your spouse's.

(The adviser is partner, GSS Associates, Chartered Accountants, Chennai)

Bank Fixed Deposit Rates

Bank Name	Interest Rates (%) Highest Slab	1-year Tenure	3-year Tenure	5-year Tenure
Small Finance Banks				
AU Small Finance Bank	8.00	6.75	8.00	7.25
Capital Small Finance Bank	7.50	7.50	7.15	7.10
Equitas Small Finance Bank	8.50	8.20	8.00	7.25
ESAF Small Finance Bank	8.50	6.00	6.75	6.25
Fincare Small Finance Bank	8.51	7.50	8.00	8.00
Jana Small Finance Bank	8.50	8.00	8.50	7.25
Suryoday Small Finance Bank	8.60	6.85	8.60	8.25
Ujjivan Small Finance Bank	8.25	8.25	7.20	7.20
Utkarsh Small Finance Bank	8.50	8.00	8.50	7.50
Private Sector Banks				
Axis Bank	7.10	6.75	7.00	7.00
Bandhan Bank	7.85	7.25	7.25	5.85
City Union Bank	7.00	6.75	6.50	6.25
CSB Bank	7.35	5.00	5.75	5.75
DBS Bank	7.50	6.25	6.50	6.50
DCB Bank	7.75	7.25	7.75	7.50
Federal Bank	7.30	6.80	6.60	6.60
HDFC Bank	7.25	6.60	7.00	7.00
ICICI Bank	7.10	6.70	7.00	7.00
IDFC First Bank	7.50	6.50	7.25	7.00
IndusInd Bank	7.50	7.50	7.25	7.25
Jammu & Kashmir Bank	7.10	7.10	6.50	6.50
Karnataka Bank	7.30	7.00	6.50	6.50
Karur Vysya Bank	7.20	7.00	7.00	6.25
Kotak Mahindra Bank	7.20	7.10	6.50	6.20
RBL Bank	7.80	7.00	7.10	7.10
SBM Bank India	7.75	6.25	7.30	7.75
South Indian Bank	7.20	6.60	6.50	6.00
TMB	7.00	7.00	6.50	6.50
Public Sector Banks				
Bank of Baroda	7.25	6.75	7.05	6.50
Bank of India	7.25	6.00	6.50	6.00
Bank of Maharashtra	7.00	6.35	6.00	5.75
Canara Bank	7.25	6.90	6.80	6.70
Central Bank of India	7.15	6.75	6.50	6.25
Indian Bank	7.25	6.10	6.25	6.25
Indian Overseas Bank	7.25	6.50	6.50	6.50
Punjab National Bank	7.25	6.75	7.00	6.50
Punjab & Sind Bank	7.35	6.40	6.25	6.25
State Bank of India	7.10	6.80	6.50	6.50
Union Bank of India	7.00	6.30	6.50	6.70
Foreign Banks				
Standard Chartered Bank	7.50	7.15	7.10	6.75

Home Loan Interest Rates

Name of Lender	Loan Amount (Rs.) Upto 30 lakh	Above 30 lakh & upto 75 lakh	Above 75 lakh
	(In %)		
Public Sector Banks			
State Bank of India	8.50-10.15	8.50-10.05	8.50-10.05
Bank of Baroda	8.60-10.65	8.60-10.65	8.60-10.90
Union Bank of India	8.50-10.75	8.50-10.95	8.50-10.95
Punjab National Bank	8.55-10.25	8.50-10.15	8.50-10.15
Bank of India	8.50-10.75	8.50-10.75	8.50-10.75
Canara Bank	8.85-11.25	8.75-11.25	8.55-11.15
UCO Bank	8.45-10.30	8.45-10.30	8.45-10.30
Bank of Maharashtra	8.50-10.92	8.50-10.92	8.50-10.92
Punjab and Sind Bank	8.50-10.00	8.50-10.00	8.50-10.00
Indian Overseas Bank	8.85*	8.85*	8.85*
Central Bank of India	8.45-9.80	8.45-9.80	8.45-9.80
Private Sector Banks			
Kotak Mahindra Bank	8.75*	8.75*	8.75*
ICICI Bank	9.00-9.80	9.00-9.95	9.00-10.05
Axis Bank	9.00-13.30	9.00-13.30	9.00-9.40
HSBC Bank	8.60*	8.60*	8.60*
South Indian Bank	9.57-10.97	9.57-10.77	9.57-11.42
Karur Vysya Bank	9.23-10.73	9.23-10.73	9.23-10.73
Karnataka Bank	8.75-10.43	8.75-10.43	8.75-10.43
Federal Bank	8.80*	8.80*	8.80*
Dhanlaxmi Bank	9.35-10.50	9.35-10.50	9.35-10.50
TMB	9.45-9.95	9.45-9.95	9.45-9.95
Bandhan Bank	9.15-15.00	9.15-13.32	9.15-13.32
RBL Bank	9.15-11.55	9.10-11.30	9.10-11.30
CSB Bank	11.27-13.12	11.27-13.12	11.27-13.12
HDFC Bank Ltd.	8.50 - 10.20	8.50 - 10.20	8.50 - 10.20
City Union Bank	12.25 - 14.00	12.75 - 14.50	13.25 - 14.75
Housing Finance Companies (HFCs)			
LIC Housing Finance	8.50-10.35	8.50-10.55	8.50-10.75
Bajaj Housing Finance	8.50*	8.50*	8.50*
Tata Capital	8.70*	8.70*	8.70*
PNB Housing Finance	8.75-14.50	8.75-11.45	8.75-11.45
GIC Housing Finance	8.80*	8.80*	8.80*
Repco Home Finance	9.80*	9.80*	9.80*
Aditya Birla Capital	8.80-14.75	8.80-14.75	8.80-14.75
ICICI Home Finance	9.20*	9.20*	9.20*
Godrej Housing Finance	8.64*	8.64*	8.64*

(*Onwards) Rates as on August 29 **Source:Paisabazaar.com**

LANDMARK

Match referee Srinath set to officiate in 250th ODI

Javagal Srinath of the ICC Elite Panel of Match Referees will officiate in his 250th men's ODI in the Asia Cup match between India and Nepal in Pallekele on Monday. Srinath, who will become the fourth to reach the milestone after Ranjan Madugalle, Chris Broad and Jeff Crowe, said he was privileged to have officiated in so many games.

LEGEND

Former international umpire Piloo Reporter passes away

Former Indian umpire Piloo Reporter, who was among the first neutral umpires to officiate in Test cricket, passed away in Mumbai on Sunday. He was 84. Reporter officiated in 14 Tests and 22 ODIs, including in the 1992 World Cup in Australia and New Zealand, in a career lasting 28 years. He also officiated in 13 First Class matches.

3-0

Abbott and Head star as Australia sweeps series against South Africa

Sean Abbott and Travis Head, *in pic*, helped Australia register a series sweep against South Africa in Durban on Sunday.
The scores: South Africa 190/8 in 20 overs (Hendricks 42, Markram 41, Ferreira 48, Abbott 4/31) lost to Australia 191/5 in 17.5 overs (Head 91, Inglis 42, Stoinis 37 n.o.). **PoM:** Head; **PoS:** Marsh.

POWERPLAY

Allen, Phillips on song as Kiwis hammer England in third T20I

Opener Finn Allen's 53-ball 83 (4x4, 6x6) and Glenn Phillips' 69 (34b, 5x4, 5x6) piloted New Zealand to 202 for five before England collapsed for 128 in the third T20I in Birmingham on Sunday.
The scores: New Zealand 202/5 in 20 overs (Allen 83, Phillips 69) bt England 128 in 18.3 overs (Buttler 40, Jamieson 3/23, Sodhi 3/33).

Rohit prefers the 'happy headache'

India skipper has first-choice players to pick from against Nepal; Bumrah returns home for personal reasons, to miss Monday's game

ASIA CUP

Amol Karhadkar
PALLEKELE

On the eve of India's Asia Cup opening tie against Pakistan, captain Rohit Sharma had stated he would prefer to have a "happy headache" of selecting the best possible combination after having all his first-choice players available.

Despite the anticipated potboiler getting abandoned at the Pallekele International Cricket Stadium on Saturday night, the action that was witnessed presented the Indian men's cricket team's management with a new selection dilemma.

Ishan Kishan made a stunning impression at an unfamiliar position, thus staking a claim over the wicketkeeper-batter's position in the middle-order though K.L. Rahul joins the squad in Colombo next week.

When Kishan walked out to bat on Saturday evening, he must have faced loads of pressure. He was playing his first ODI versus Pakistan, he was batting at No. 5 in an ODI for the first time. And with Pakistan's pace pack on song, India was reeling at 48 for three.

Kishan has hardly tasted success in his six innings at No. 4. But with vice-captain Hardik Pandya being at his composed best at the other end, Kishan blossomed, especially against the spinners. His breezy 81-ball 82, the second-highest score by an Indian playing his first ODI against Pakistan, was the highlight of his 138-run partnership with Hardik, thus giving India a fighting chance before the heavens opened up.

Man of the hour: Kishan strengthened his case with a superb knock at a crucial juncture against Pakistan. AP

With Kishan having grabbed his opportunity with both hands, he has made a case of being used in the middle-order at least until the end of the World Cup. He will be keen to carry on in the same vein against Asia Cup debutant Nepal here on Monday.

Jasprit Bumrah will miss the game against Nepal after having returned home for personal reasons. Mohammed Shami is set to replace him.

According to a team source, Bumrah, having recovered from a stress injury, is heading back home for personal reasons and is in a very good shape. Bumrah is expected to rejoin the squad in time for its Super Four opener versus Pakistan.

The teams (from):

India: Rohit Sharma (Capt.), Hardik Pandya (Vice-capt.), Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer, K.L. Rahul, Shubman Gill, Suryakumar Yadav, Tilak Varma, Ishan Kishan, Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel, Shardul Thakur, Jasprit Bumraj, Mohammed Shami, Mohammed Siraj, Kuldeep Yadav, Prasidh Krishna.

Nepal: Rohit Paudel (Capt.), Kushal Bhurtel, Aasif Sheikh, Bhim Sharki, Kushal Malla, Aarif Sheikh, Dipendra Singh Airee, Gulshan Jha, Sompal Kami, Karan K.C., Sandeep Lamichhane, Lalit Rajbanshi, Pratish G.C., Mousom Dhakal, Sundeep Jora, Kishore Mahato, Arjun Saud.

Match starts at 3 p.m. IST.

Mehidy and Shanto set up Bangladesh's comfortable win

Agence France-Presse
LAHORE

Allrounder Mehidy Hasan Miraz and Najmul Hossain Shanto smashed centuries as Bangladesh scored a mammoth 334 for five in its must-win Asia Cup match against Afghanistan on Sunday.

Mehidy hit a 119-ball 112 – his highest ODI score – while Shanto scored a 105-ball 104 as Bangladesh posted its highest ODI total outside its country.

In reply, despite losing Rahmatullah Gurbaz early, Afghanistan's innings was put back on track by Ibrahim Zadran (75) and Rahmat Shah (33) who added 78 for the second wicket.

Skipper Hashmatullah Shahidi (51) kept the chasing going before his dismissal in the 38th over triggered a slide and Afghanistan was bowled out for 245.

Earlier in the day, Mehidy and Shanto lifted their team from the loss of Mohammad Naim (28) and Towhid Hridoy (0) through a third-wicket stand of 194 off 190 balls, punishing Afghanistan's spinners on a flat Gaddafi stadium pitch.

Mehidy justified the decision to send him to the top of the order by striking seven boundaries before he hurt his left hand while hitting a third six and walked off the field. This was his second ODI century.

Shanto hit nine fours and two sixes before he was run out in the 45th over as Bangladesh piled up 103 in the last 10 overs.

Mehidy and Shanto... a big stand. AFP

Skipper Shakib Al Hasan carried on the good work with an unbeaten 18-ball 32 with four fours and a six.

Afghanistan's much-vaunted spin trio failed to stop the flow of runs with only Mujeeb Ur Rahman getting one wicket while Rashid Khan's wicket-less 10 overs cost 66 runs.

The scores: Bangladesh 334/5 in 50 overs (Mehidy Hasan Miraz 112 retd. hurt, Najmul Hossain Shanto 104, Shakib Al Hasan 32 n.o.) bt Afghanistan 245 in 44.3 overs (Ibrahim Zadran 75, Rahmat Shah 33, Hashmatullah Shahidi 51, Taskin Ahmed 4/44, Shoriful Islam 3/36).

TODAY'S MATCH

GROUP A

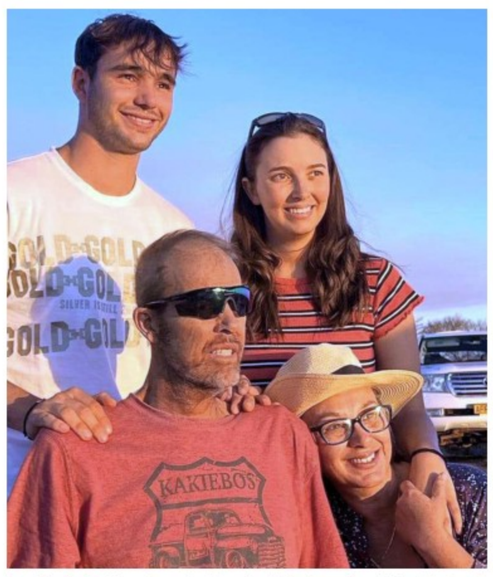
India vs. Nepal

Pallekele, 3 p.m. IST

H2H in ODIs

First Meeting

Zimbabwe cricket legend Heath Streak passes away



Last wish: Streak, who bowled his heart out for Zimbabwe, wanted to spend his final days with family.

Agence France-Presse
JOHANNESBURG

Heath Streak, one of Zimbabwe's greatest cricketers, died on Sunday aged 49, his wife informed in a social media post. He had been battling colon cancer.

He was a key member of the Zimbabwe teams that were competitive against cricket's bigger nations in the late 1990s and early 2000s.

His cricket career ended in ignominy, however, when he was banned for eight years for breaching the ICC anti-corruption code.

It was announced in May this year that Streak was seriously ill – and it was reported in August that he had passed away, following a message on social media from former teammate Henry Olonga.

Streak himself was quick to assert that he was still alive, but not before numerous tributes by

> In the early hours of this morning, Sunday, September 3 , the greatest love of my life and the father of my beautiful children, was carried to be with the angels from his home where he wished to spend his last days surrounded by his family and closest loved ones
>
> **NADINE STREAK**

former teammates and opponents.

Streak had two spells as Zimbabwe captain, interrupted by a dispute with Zimbabwe Cricket in 2001 over pay and racial quota issues.

The highlight of his four wins in 21 Tests as captain was Zimbabwe's first Test victory against India, in Harare in 2001.

He led Zimbabwe in 68 ODIs, including the 2003 World Cup when Zimbabwe reached the Super Six stage. He was sacked as captain in 2004 at a time of upheaval in Zimbabwe cricket. This, in turn, led to a much-weakened team temporarily losing its Test match status. He retired from international cricket in 2005.

Streak in numbers

Batting	M	Inns	Runs	HS	100s/50s
Tests	65	107	1990	127*	1/11
ODIs	189	159	2943	79*	0/13
Bowling	**M**	**Inns**	**Wkts**	**BBI**	**4W/5W**
Tests	65	102	216	6/73	16/7
ODIs	189	185	239	5/32	7/1

Super 4s likely to be moved out of Colombo

Amol Karhadkar
PALLEKELE

Heavy rain in Colombo may result in the Super 4s being rescheduled. The Asian Cricket Council is understood to have been contemplating Dambulla or Hambantota as the alternate venue.

The Hindu understands that with parts of Colombo being flooded and the R. Premadasa Stadium having drainage issues, the tournament broadcaster has requested for a change in venue.

Final decision by Tuesday

Considering the logistical nightmare – including accommodation for four teams and broadcasters, let alone fans – a final decision on the issue will be taken by Tuesday.

Exorbitant ticket prices have resulted in the locals turning their back on the Asia Cup, at least so far. The Pakistan Cricket Board has been forced to host the tournament in Pakistan and Sri Lanka, with India declining to travel to Pakistan.

To cash in on the opportunity, the prices for the India-Pakistan match had been hiked at least 80 times than the usual price for an international match at Pallekele.

A grass bank ticket was initially sold at $30 (LKR 10,000, approx) while a grand-stand seat with no hospitality was priced at $ 125 (LKR 42,500 approx). Usually, the ticket rates for grass banks are LKR 250 for the grass bank and LKR 1250 for grand-stand.

In a country that's been struggling with inflation issues, such pricing has resulted in local cricket fans staying away from the games. Even Sri Lanka's tournament-opener versus Bangladesh was played in front of a near-empty stadium.

Arsenal trumps United in a thriller

EURO LEAGUES

Associated Press
LONDON

Declan Rice and Gabriel Jesus' second-half injury-time strikes helped Arsenal beat Manchester United 3-1 in the Premier League at the Emirates Stadium on Sunday. Minutes earlier, Alejandro Garnacho looked to have given United the lead late in the game when Rasmus Hojlund threaded a pass through to the Argentine, who buried the ball into the net expertly in 88th minute. However, the goal after a VAR check, was ruled off-side. In another match, Mohamed Salah scored again for Liverpool in its dominant 3-0 win over Aston Villa.

Declan Rice. AP

The results: Premier League: Crystal Palace 3 (Edouard 56, 84, E. Eze 78) bt Wolves 2 (Hee-Chan 65, Cunha 90+ 6); Liverpool 3 (Szoboszlai 3, Cash 22-og, Salah 55) bt Aston Villa 0; Arsenal 3 (Odegaard 28, Rice 90+6, Jesus 90+11) bt Manchester United 1 (Rashford 27).

LaLiga: Girona 1 (Portu 88) bt Las Palmas 0; Mallorca 0 drew with Athletic Club 0; Mallorca 0 drew with Athletic Club 0.

Bundesliga: Frankfurt 1 (Nkounkou 87) drew with Koln (Kainz 43-pen).

Serie A: Inter Milan 4 (Thuram 23, Martinez 53, 73, Calhanoğlu 58-pen) bt Fiorentina 0; Torino 1 (Radonjic 90+4) bt Genoa 0.

Medvedev advances; Pegula books fourth-round matchup with Keys

US OPEN

Associated Press
NEW YORK

Daniil Medvedev progressed to the fourth round of the US Open with a 6-2, 6-2, 7-6(6) victory over Sebastian Baez which snapped the Argentine's 12-match winning streak.

Third seed and 2021 champion Medvedev is through to the second week in New York for the fifth year in a row and will play Australian 13th seed Alex de Minaur for a spot in the quarterfinals.

Medvedev closed out the victory with an ace on his fourth match point in the tie-break as he finished well past 1am for the second straight match.

"I just want to go to sleep, that's it. Nothing more," said Medvedev.

"When you go to play at 11pm it just feels tough. This time I decided not to sleep before and I ate, so I was feeling pretty bad on the court. That's why I was nervous all the match."

Tired: Medvedev closed out the victory well past 1 a.m. for the second straight match. AFP

Pegula beat Elina Svitolina 6-4, 4-6, 6-2 on Saturday, setting up a fourth-round matchup against the No. 17-seeded Madison Keys.

Keys came back to eliminate No. 14 Liudmila Samsonova 5-7, 6-2, 6-2.

Other winners on the women's side on Saturday included No. 2 Aryna Sabalenka, who routed Clara Burel 6-1, 6-1, and No. 13 Daria Kasatkina, who topped Greet Minnen 6-3, 6-4 and will face the Australian Open champion Monday. Wimbledon champion Marketa Vondrousova, the No. 9 seed, routed No. 22 Ekaterina Alexandrova 6-2, 6-1 and will face unseeded American Peyton Stearns.

THE RESULTS

Men: **Third round:** Draper (GBr) bt Mmoh (USA) 6-4, 6-2, 3-6, 6-3; Arnaldi (Ita) bt 16-Norrie (GBr) 6-3, 6-4, 6-3; 1-Alcaraz (Esp) bt 26-Evans (GBr) 6-2, 6-3, 4-6, 6-3; 8-Rublev bt Rinderknech (Fra) 3-6, 6-3, 6-1, 7-5; 6-Sinner (Ita) bt Wawrinka (Sui) 6-3, 2-6, 6-4, 6-2; 13-de Minaur (Aus) bt Jarry (Chi) 6-1, 6-3, 6-2; 12-Zverev (Ger) bt 19-Dimitrov (Bul) 6-7(2), 7-6(8), 6-1, 6-1; 3-Medvedev bt Baez (Arg) 6-2, 6-2, 7-6(6).

Doubles: 6-Rohan (Ind) & Ebden (Aus) bt Cash & Patten (GBr) 6-4, 6-7(5), 7-6(6).

Women: Fourth round: Karolina Muchova (10), Czech Republic, def. Wang Xinyu, China, 6-3, 5-7, 6-1.

Third round: 2-Sabalenka bt Burel (Fra) 6-1, 6-1; 13-Kasatkina bt Minnen (Bel) 6-3, 6-4; 17-Keys (USA) bt 14-Samsonova 5-7, 6-2, 6-2; 3-Pegula (USA) bt 26-Svitolina (Ukr) 6-4, 4-6, 6-2; 23-Qinwen (Chn) bt Bronzetti (Ita) 6-3, 4-6, 6-4; Stearns (USA) bt Boulter (GBr) 6-4, 6-3; 5-Jabeur (Tun) bt 31-Bouzkova (Cze) 5-7, 7-6(5), 6-3; 9-Vondrousova (Cze) bt 22-Alexandrova 6-2, 6-1.

INBRIEF

India beats Pakistan in Hockey5s Asia Cup final

The Indian men's hockey team was crowned champions at the inaugural Men's Hockey5s Asia Cup on Saturday defeating Pakistan 2-0 in the shootout in the final. Subsequently, India qualified for the FIH Men's Hockey5s World Cup Oman 2024.

The result: Final: India 4 (Jugraj 7, Maninder 10, Raheel 19, 26) drew with Pakistan 4 (Rehman 5, Rana 13, Hayat 14, Liaqat 19); (India won 2-0 in shootout).

Sriram Balaji and Ramkumar lose Challenger doubles final

Unseeded Daniel Cukierman and Joshua Paris beat the fourth seeds Sriram Balaji and Ramkumar Ramanathan 6-4, 6-4 in the doubles final of the €73,000 Challenger tennis tournament in Mallorca, Spain.

LIVE TELECAST

Asia Cup: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 3 p.m.

US Open: Sony Sports Ten 2, 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 8.30 p.m. & 4.30 a.m. (Tuesday)

Railways thumps Karnataka for MCC-Murugappa Gold Cup

Pratap Lakra the standout performer for the victor with a hat-trick; the losing team, comprising youngsters, can take heart from a fighting performance through the tournament

HOCKEY

K. Keerthivasan
CHENNAI

Champion: The Railways team with chief guest, TN Sports Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin. M. VEDHAN

The experience and the might of Indian Railways was too much to handle for a young Hockey Karnataka side as the former scripted a 5-2 victory in the final of the 94th MCC-Murugappa Gold Cup all-India hockey tournament here on Sunday.

The hero of the match was drag-flick expert and former junior international Pratap Lakra, who scored a hat-trick.

The former champion hardly gave any leeway to the speedy Karnataka forwards. In fits and starts, Karnataka kept attacking Railways' citadel at every given opportunity. In the same vein, its defence, too, was sturdy; the interceptions at the back showed the young team's capability.

Railways pretty much closed out the contest in the third quarter. Pratap scored twice off PC's and one off a penalty stroke. Trailing 3-1 at the end of two quarters, with Lakra scoring all the goals, Karnataka knew that it had lost the plot.

Brave front

And it showed in the remaining two quarters though Karnataka did put up a brave front till the final whistle.

Hockey Karnataka has been a revelation here. Comprising players whose average age is 23 years, it showed a heart and a stomach for a fight throughout the tournament.

Prabhakar Singh, head coach of Railways, said his team had a head-start when it came to penalty corners.

"We always had the advantage in PC's. We had more possession. Our objective was to put pressure on them. Our plan was that if we get a PC, we should either score or 'have a shot' at goal. We cashed in on our chances," he said.

Udhayanidhi Stalin, TN Sports Minister, gave away the prizes.

The results (final): Indian Railways 5 (Pratap Lakra 2, 24 (PS) & 29, Ajit Pandey 36, Deepak 42) bt Hockey Karnataka 2 (Thrishul Ganapathi 17, Chethan Karisiri 52). **Man of the match:** Pratap Lakra.
Special prizes: best forward of the tournament: Yuvraj Walmiki (Indian Railways); **best midfielder:** Mukul Sharma (Indian Railways); **best defender / goalkeeper:** Naveen Kumar (goalkeeper, Central Secretariat); **most promising player:** Sahil (HUTN).

Max Verstappen secures a Perfect 10

ITALIAN GP

Reuters
MONZA

Max Verstappen celebrated a record 10th win in a row by leading Red Bull team mate Sergio Perez one-two at Ferrari's home Italian Grand Prix on Sunday.

The Dutch driver's victory on a sunny afternoon was also Red Bull's 15th in succession –a record previously held by Ferrari.

Carlos Sainz was third his first podium of the season after starting on pole position.

Verstappen stretched his lead in the standings over Perez to 145 points with eight rounds remaining. Red Bull leads Mercedes in the constructors' championship with Ferrari moving up to third.

Charles Leclerc was fourth for Ferrari with George Russell fifth for Mercedes.

Petratos the star as 10-man Bagan regains the Durand Cup

Amitabha Das Sharma
KOLKATA

On top: Mohun Bagan players celebrate their title triumph. DEBASISH BHADURI

Dimitri Petratos came up with a fine solo effort to find the only goal of the match and help a 10-man Mohun Bagan Super Giant prevail over its traditional rival Emami East Bengal in the final of the 132nd Durand Cup at the Salt Lake Stadium here on Sunday.

The Indian Super League champion regained the coveted title after a gap of 23 years. It is also Bagan's 17th title in the tournament helping it surpass East Bengal as the most successful team in this competition. With a turnout of around 60,000, the match turned out to be a nervy affair forcing the two sides to seek caution over aggression.

Bagan, which went down to 10 men following the ejection of its midfielder Anirudh Thapa in the 62nd minute, finally managed to collect itself in the final quarter of the action and found the winner in the 71st.

The goal came through a nice piece of work from its Australian striker, Petratos, who showed the requisite skill to come up with a spectacular finish.

The opening half turned out to be an insipid affair as opponents contained their offensive plans to see the action mostly hovering around midfield.

Bagan put three foreigners – Albanian Armando Sadiku, Frenachman Hugo Boumous and Petratos – in its attack formation at the start but East Bengal did a fine defensive job in thwarting them.

The match came alive after the hour mark when Thapa received his second booking of for a high boot charge on the East Bengal forward Javier Siverio. East Bengal tried to utilise its numerical advantage but it was Bagan which found the winner.

The result: Final: Emami East Bengal 0 lost to Mohun Bagan Super Giant 1 (Dimitri Petratos 71).

Influential duo: Century makers Sumit Kushwah, left, and RIshabh Chouhan added 213 runs for the fourth wicket for Madhya Pradesh.

Madhya Pradesh has the upper hand

BUCHI BABU

Sports Bureau

Opener Sumit Kushwah (111, 369b, 13x4) and middle-order batter Rishabh Chouhan (181 batting, 353b, 22x4, 3x6) continued from where they left off on the opening day and slammed brilliant centuries to power Madhya Pradesh to a commanding position against TNCA XI on day two of the semifinals of the All India Buchi Babu tournament at the NPR College ground, Dindigul, on Sunday. At stumps, MP finished on 456 for seven when rain stopped play.

In the other semifinal at Salem, Delhi with a disciplined bowling performance reduced Chhattisgarh to 182 for eight.

The scores: Madhya Pradesh 456/7 in 156.3 overs (Sumit Kushwah 111, Rishabh Chouhan 181 batting, Aryan Deshmukh 40) vs TNCA XI.

Delhi 340 in 103 overs (Arpit Rana 51, Vaibhav Sharma 60, Vaibhav Kandpal 42, Sumit Mathur 52, Ajay Mandal 4/66) vs Chhattisgarh 182/8 in 65.4 overs (Shashank Chandrakar 42, Md. Shahbaz Hussain 40).

Harika, Ju Wenjun on top after dramatic day one of blitz

TATA STEEL CHESS

P.K. Ajith Kumar
KOLKATA

It was, quite expectedly, a wild day of blitz chess at the National Library on Sunday. Still, two women were calmer than the others.

Third seed Dronavalli Harika and top seed and World champion Ju Wenjun shared the lead after the ninth round of the women's blitz section of the Tata Steel Chess India tournament on Sunday.

They have 6.5 points each. They have a lead of 1.5 points over their nearest rivals, second seed Koneru Humpy and Divya Deshmukh, the girl who shook up the tournament by winning the rapid event a day ago.

With another nine rounds remaining, Humpy and Divya have enough time to catch up. They came face to face in the last round of the day. The senior woman triumphed, avenging her loss in the final round of the rapid event.

Russian Polina Shuvalova is on 4.5 points, while fourth seed Irina Krush of the United States and B. Savitha Shri have four points each.

The results (ninth round): Koneru Humpy 5 bt Divya Deshmukh 5; Ju Wenjun (Chn) 6.5 bt Anna Ushenina (Ukr) 3.5; Irina Krush (USA) 4 bt B. Savitha Shri 4; Vantika Agrawal 3.5 bt Nino Batsiashvili (Geo) 2.5; Polina Shuvalova (FIDE) 4.5 lost to Dronavalli Harika 6.5.

Eighth round: Divya bt Shuvalova; Harika drew with Vantika; Batsiashvili lost to Krush; Savitha lost to Ju; Ushenina bt Humpy.

Seventh round: Ushenina lost to Divya; Humpy lost to Savitha; Ju bt Batsiashvili; Krush drew with Harika; Vantika drew with Shuvalova.

Reyansh and Tanishka emerge champions

Sports Bureau
BENGALURU

Reyansh Jalan and Tanishka Kapil Kalbhairav won the boys' and girls' under-13 titles respectively in the Karnataka State ranking table tennis tournament organised by Belagavi Table Tennis Association.

The results: Finals: Under-13: Boys: Reyansh Jalan bt Vedant Vashisht 11-9, 11-7, 12-10.
Girls: Tanishka Kapil Kalbhairav bt Raashi Rao 11-6, 11-4, 11-3
Hopes: Boys: Sudharshan Raj bt Ankush Baliga 5-11, 11-4, 11-7, 11-9.
Girls: Mihika Udupa bt S. Rachitha 11-8, 11-3, 10-12, 12-10
Non medallist singles: Tejas Jewoor bt Ayushi Godse 11-9, 11-6, 11-9.

South United blanks Deccan

South United FC whipped FC Deccan 4-0 in the BDFA Super Division football league here on Sunday.

The results: South United FC 4 (Mahesh Selva 28, 84, 90, U.K. Surya 76) bt FC Deccan 0; HAL FC 1 (Leynold Carl 85) bt Kickstart FC 0.

N R I Superpower for the Belmont Prince Plate

RACING

HYDERABAD: Trainer R.H. Sequeira's filly N R I Superpower may win the Belmont Prince Plate, the chief event of Monday's (Sept. 4) races.

1 BHONGIR PLATE (1,400m), rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III) – 1.30 p.m.: 1. D World (4) Kiran Naidu 60, 2. Grand Duke (5) R.S. Jodha 60, 3. Honey Girl (2) P. Ajeeth Kumar 60, 4. Anab E Shahi (1) S. Saqlain 58, 5. Mr. Perfect (8) Mohit Singh 58, 6. Soorya Vahan (7) Md. Ismail 57, 7. My Way Or Highway (3) D.S. Deora 53 and 8. Exponent (6) Surya Prakash 50.5.

1. ANAB E SHAHI, 2. D WORLD, 3. MR. PERFECT

2 NORTHERN DANCER PLATE (Div. II) (1,200m), (Terms) Maiden, 3-y-o only (Cat. II) – 2.05: 1. Calisson (10) Kuldeep Singh (Sr) 56, 2. Colt Pistol (8) Akshay Kumar 56, 3. Deccan Spirit (4) D.S. Deora 56, 4. Hoping Star (5) Mohit Singh 56, 5. Ragnarok (6) A.A. Vikrant 56, 6. Viana (7) Surya Prakash 56, 7. Bold Beauty (9) P. Sai Kumar 54.5, 8. Club Queen (3) R.S. Jodha 54.5, 9. Fly Me (2) S.K. Paswan 54.5, 10. N R I Dynamic (11) G. Naresh 54.5 and 11. She's Magic (1) B. Nikhil 54.5.

1. COLT PISTOL, 2. BOLD BEAUTY, 3. DECCAN SPIRIT

3 NORTHERN DANCER PLATE (Div. I) (1,200m), (Terms) Maiden, 3-y-o only (Cat. II) – 2.40: 1. Agreement (2) Sonu Kumar 56, 2. Great Combo (11) R.S. Jodha 56, 3. N R I Legend (9) G. Naresh 56, 4. That's My Love (1) Kuldeep Singh (Sr) 56, 5. D Right Time (6) P. Ajeeth Kumar 54.5, 6. Deccan Daisy (10) P. Sai Kumar 54.5, 7. Flashing Memories (7) Surya Prakash 54.5, 8. Mix The Magic (8) S. Saqlain 54.5, 9. Santa Barbara (3) B.R. Kumar 54.5, 10. Silver Act (5) D.S. Deora 54.5 and 11. Veneno (4) B. Nikhil 54.5.

1. D RIGHT TIME, 2. VENENO, 3. THAT'S MY LOVE

4 BELMONT PRINCE PLATE (1,800m), rated 60 to 85 (Cat. II) – 3.15: 1. Akido (5) Akshay Kumar 60, 2. Yesterday (3) P. Trevor 57, 3. N R I Superpower (7) S. Saqlain 56.5, 4. City Of Blessing (2) Santosh Raj 52.5, 5. Morior Invictus (4) Md. Ismail 52.5, 6. Sonata (6) P. Ajeeth Kumar 52 and 7. Winning Streak (1) Afroz Khan 52.

1. N R I SUPERPOWER, 2. AKIDO, 3. MORIOR INVICTUS

5 B. MARIDESHWARA RAO MEMORIAL CUP (1,400m), rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II) – 3.50: 1. N R I Sport (2) Sonu Kumar 60, 2. Barbet (3) P. Trevor 59, 3. Siddharth (4) Akshay Kumar 57.5, 4. Just Incredible (1) Kuldeep Singh (Sr) 57, 5. Team Player (5) Kuldeep Singh (Jr) 56.5, 6. Strauss (8) D.S. Deora 54, 7. Hard To Toss (6) B.R. Kumar 53.5 and 8. Picture Me (7) P. Sai Kumar 53.

1. BARBET, 2. SIDDHARTH, 3. STRAUSS

6 HYPERION PLATE (1,100m), rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III) – 4.25: 1. Char Ek Char (6) Surya Prakash 60, 2. Desert Sultan (10) B.R. Kumar 60, 3. Splendour On Grass (7) Mohit Singh 59.5, 4. Sweet Dancer (4) P. Ajeeth Kumar 59.5, 5. D Minchu (2) Kiran Naidu 58.5, 6. Calista Girl (1) Shivansh 57, 7. Divine Connection (8) R.S. Jodha 55.5, 8. Think Of God (9) S.K. Paswan 53.5, 9. Park Lane (3) Md. Ismail 53 and 10. Silver Arrow (5) Abhay Singh 53.

1. SWEET DANCER, 2. CALISTA GIRL, 3. SPLENDOUR ON GRASS

7 HIDDEN BLOOM PLATE (1,200m), 5-y-o and upward, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II) – 5.00: 1. Red Snaper (7) Afroz Khan 60, 2. See My Spark (4) A. Imran Khan 59, 3. Laurus (2) S. Saqlain 58.5, 4. D Yes Boss (13) P. Ajeeth Kumar 56.5, 5. Bugsy (3) Kuldeep Singh (Jr) 56, 6. Silk (8) Mohit Singh 55, 7. Mezcal (15) S.K. Paswan 54.5, 8. Angel Tesoro (9) B.R. Kumar 54, 9. Rising Queen (11) Md. Ismail 54, 10. Baisa (12) P. Trevor 53.5, 11. Cabello (6) Santosh Raj 53, 12. Pinatubo (5) Kuldeep Singh (Sr) 52.5, 13. Star Racer (1) P. Sai Kumar 52, 14. Capital Gain (10) Surya Prakash 51.5 and 15. Tripurari (14) D.S. Deora 51.5.

1. LAURUS, 2. BAISA, 3. RED SNAPER

Day's Best: **BARBET**

Jackpot: 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7.

Mini Jackpot: (i) 1, 2, 3 & 4. (ii) 4, 5, 6 & 7.

Treble: (i) 2, 3 & 4. (ii) 5, 6 & 7.

Tanala: All races.

Huntingdon claims the Race2win.com Deccan Colts Championship Stakes

HYDERABAD: Trainer Leo D'Silva's colt Huntingdon, ridden by S. Saqlain, won the Race2win.com Deccan Colts Championship Stakes (Gr. 3), the main attraction of Sunday's (Sept. 3) races.

The winner is owned by Mr. Vazhaparmbil John Joseph & Mr. Bharat Venkat Epur.

S. Saqlain, who confidently kept his mount in fifth position till the bend, quickly took charge in the straight to surprise the first favourite Synthesis and won the race by 1-1/4 lengths.

1. SILVER PHANTOM PLATE: TERENGA (Antony Raj S) 1, Queen Empress (Abhay Singh) 2, Stunning Art (D.S. Deora) 3 and Toffee (R.S. Jodha) 4. 8, Nose and 2. 1m 56.78s. ₹54 (w), 12, 20 and 10 (p). SHP: 64, THP: 40, SHW: 22 and 35 , FP: 554, Q: 359, Tanala: 2,523. Favourite: Lady Racines.

Owners: M/s. Arun Alagappan Racing LLP & Mr. Chandrakant Kankaria. Trainer: L.V.R. Deshmukh.

2. HILL FORT PLATE: SILVER LINING (S. Saqlain) 1, My Master (A. Imran Khan) 2, Canterbury (Afroz Khan) 3 and Solar Princess (Surya Prakash) 4. 1-1/2, 5-1/4 and 3-1/2. 1m 17. 06s. ₹20 (w), 11, 13 and 23 (p). SHP: 37, THP: 62, SHW: 12 and 30, FP: 57, Q: 35, Tanala: 234. Favourite: Silver Lining.

Owner & Trainer: Mr. L.D'Silva.

3. BHUPALPALLY PLATE (DIV. I): MIREYA (Kuldeep Singh (Sr)) 1, Ice Berry (Kuldeep Singh (Jr)) 2, First Class (B. Nikhil) 3 and Golden Forza (Kiran Naidu) 4. 3-1/4, Shd and 1. 1m 16. 28s. ₹99 (w) 23, 15 and 61 (p). SHP: 49, THP: 207, SHW: 52 and 19, FP: 902, Q: 389, Tanala: 24,066. Favourite: The Hambone.

Victorious: Y. Gopi Rao, MD, M/s Razor Gaming Private Limited, right, presents the winner's trophy to trainer L. D'Silva whose Huntingdon won the feature event in Hyderabad on Sunday, September 3, 2023. Also seen are HRC chairperson R. Surender Reddy, second left, and actress Lakshmi Manchu, second right. G. RAMAKRISHNA

Owner: Mr. Subodh Kumar Ananthula. Trainer: G. Sandeep.

4. COLONEL B. SANTOSH BABU MEMORIAL CUP: TRUTH (Kuldeep Singh (Sr)) 1, Path Of Peace (Surya Prakash) 2, Humanitarian (Akshay Kumar) 3 and Stormy Ocean (P. Trevor) 4. 2-1/4, 4-1/2 and 2. 2m 08. 57s. ₹64 (w), 14, 30 and 14 (p). SHP: 114, THP: 42, SHW: 35 and 33, FP: 1,428, Q: 734, Tanala: 6,440. Favourite: Humanitarian.

Owners: Mr. N.V. Rohin Kumar & Mr. G. K. Keshavmurthy. Trainer: S. Sreekant.

5. RACE2WIN.COM DECCAN COLTS CHAMPIONSHIP STAKES (GR. III): HUNTINGDON (Oiseau De Feu – Glorious Hymn) (S. Saqlain) 1, Synthesis (Speaking Of Which – Sana) (Yash Narredu) 2, High Command (Leitir Mor – Heiress) (Akshay Kumar) 3 and Destroyer (Exceed And Excel – Abaq) (P.S. Chouhan) 4. 1-1/4, 1-1/4 and 3-3/4. 1m 40. 49s. ₹139 (w), 26, 10 and 14 (p). SHP: 32, THP: 39, SHW: 74 and 13, FP: 453, Q: 145, Tanala: 1,543. Favourite: Synthesis.

Owners: Mr. Vazhaparmbil John Joseph & Mr. Bharat Venkat Epur. Trainer: L.D'Silva.

6. TELANGANA AND ANDHRA SUB AREA CUP: AVANCIA (Sonu Kumar) 1, Kenaf (Afroz Khan) 2, Malibu (Vivek G) 3 and Archway (Antony Raj S) 4. Not run: The Thunder. Neck, 1/2 and Shd. 1m 8. 69s. ₹39 (w), 14, 14 and 33 (p). SHP: 33, THP: 64, SHW: 22 and 17, FP: 89, Q: 42, Tanala: 716. Favourite: Kenaf.

Owners: Mr. Rajendran rep. Rapar's Galloping Stars LLP. Trainer: M.R. Chauhan.

7. BHUPALPALLY PLATE (DIV. II): SOPRANOS (P.S. Chouhan) 1, Classy Dame (Kuldeep Singh (Jr)) 2, Fatuma (Akshay Kumar) 3 and Spectacular Cruise (A.A. Vikrant) 4. 2-1/4, Neck and Neck. 1m 16. 48s. ₹27 (w), 13, 22 and 14 (p). SHP: 56, THP: 56, SHW: 17 and 46, FP: 247, Q: 168, Tanala: 710. Favourite: Sopranos.

Owners: Mr. Rama Seshu Eyunni & Mr. Marthand Singh Mahindra. Trainer: R.H. Sequeira.

Jackpot: 70%: ₹6,16, 116 (1 tkt), 30%: 52,809 (5 tkts.).

Mini Jackpot: (i) 20,890 (3 ttks). (ii) 13, 430 (12 tkts.).

Treble: (i) 2, 306 (23 tkts.), (ii) 2,350 (46 tkts.).

Excluding breakers from Asiad disheartening

Y.B. Sarangi
KOLKATA

The Amateur Dance Sport Federation of India (ADSFI) has expressed its disappointment over the exclusion of breakers from the final list of the upcoming Asiad.

After the Union Sports Ministry dropped the breakers from the listthe federation approached Union Sports Minister Anurag Thakur with a request to allow its athletes to compete in the Asiad with no cost to the Government.

"This is a new discipline which is there in the Paris Olympics and it needs encouragement," ADSFI secretary Biswajit Mohanty told *The Hindu*.